# ちるぎ 1

松本次郎

原作・永井義男



# いちげき

1

松本次郎
原作・永井義男



# いちげき 1

## INDEX


CHAPTER 1 A STRUGGLE TO THE DEATH IN 90 METERS ..... 5

CHAPTER 2 WHAT I'M MISSING ..... 41

CHAPTER 3 ONE-STRIKE, ONE-KILL SQUAD ..... 73

CHAPTER 4 FIRST BATTLE ..... 113

CHAPTER 5 BLOOD IN THE WIND ..... 149

EXTRA STORY THE LIFE OF A DOG ..... 187



月刊「コミック乱」連載作品

# CHAPTER 1:
# A STRUGGLE TO THE DEATH IN 90 METERS



THERE IS NO ONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE.

ROMANS 3:10

THERE IS A FIRE!

WE'RE TAKING AWAY YOUR FORTUNE IN ORDER TO REBUILD OUR GREAT NATION!

WE ARE PATRIOTS LOYAL TO THE EMPEROR!

SOME-ONE, HELP!

SLASH TWO OR THREE MORE PEOPLE DOWN.

WE AREN'T FLASHY ENOUGH.

KYAAH!

IMUDA-DONO.

THE CITY GUARDS OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE ARE ON THEIR WAY.

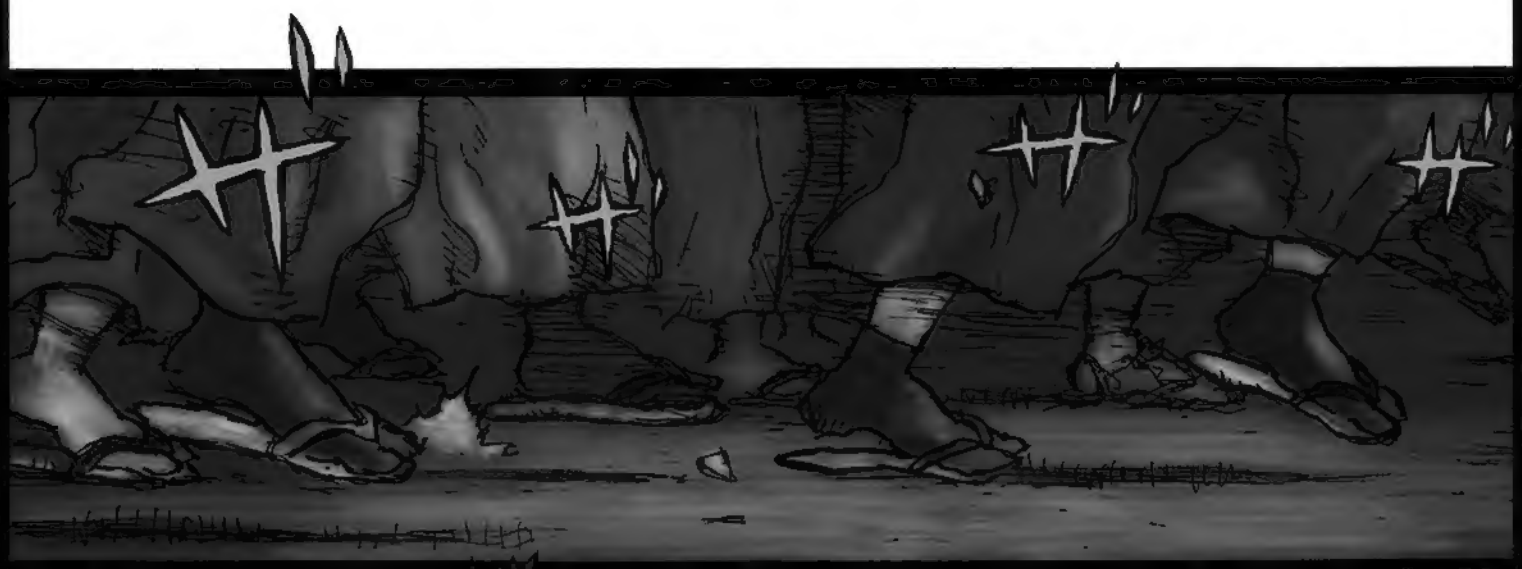
SO THEY HAVE WAITED FOR US TO BE DONE BEFORE COMING AFTER US, HUH?

SPINE-LESS COWARDS.

THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.

WE'RE RETUR-NING!

THE LAST DAYS OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE. THE ORDER IN EDO WAS VANISHING, AND THE CITY WAS ENGULFED IN ANXIETY. SAIGOU TAKAMORI OF THE SATSUMA DOMAIN, WHO PLANNED TO STIR UNREST, ORDERED HIS LOYAL WARRIORS TO TEAM UP WITH THE CONSPIRATORS AND COMMIT ACTS OF TERROR SUCH AS ARSON, ROBBERIES AND RANDOM KILLINGS. THE CITIZENS OF EDO WHO WERE AFFECTED BY THESE "ACTS OF TERROR" WERE TREMBLING IN FEAR.





UNLIKE IN YOSHIWARA, THE WOMEN THERE ARE FINER AND KNOW THEIR PLACES.

AFTER WE RETURN TO THE DAIMYO'S SPARE RESIDENCE, WE'LL HEAD TO YABU-SHITA'S IMURAYA.

YOU'LL GET USED TO IT IN NO TIME, MAENO-SUKE.

THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE...

はは

はは

YOU'LL FEEL RELIEVED AFTER SHAGGING THOSE WOMEN.

…

HM?

THERE CAN'T BE ANY NOBLE INTENTIONS BEHIND THESE ACTS OF BRUTALITY...

ROBBERIES AND ARSONS... HOW ARE THESE RELATED TO OUR CAUSE?

IS THIS WHAT A SAMURAI WHO PURGES BARBARIANS FROM THIS LAND DOES?



TEN DAYS AGO.







*OLD CURRENCY

EVEN IF YOU FAIL, YOU WILL RECEIVE 300 MON*. THOSE WHO PASS WILL GET 3000 MON IN ADVANCE, AND TWO GOLD AFTERWARDS.

WE'LL BEGIN WITH THE EXAM... OH, BEFORE THAT, I'M SURE YOU HAVE HEARD THIS FROM THE VILLAGE OFFICER...

ALRIGHT, EVERYONE HAS GATHERED UP.

PEA-SANTS.

ANYWAY, DO YOUR BEST,

DUNNO, BUT IT'S A LOT OF COINS!

HOW MUCH IS THAT?

THREE THOUSAND MON?

THREE...

"DROPS!"

PICK UP THE PACE, YOKICHI.

A-AYE.

HURRY!

TWO GROUPS?

FIRST OF ALL, LINE UP IN TWO GROUPS.

YONE-KICHI.

SHUT UP AND WATCH,

TSK.

WOAH! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THAT BAG OF RICE, BRO USHIGOROU?

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

WHEN ARE WE GETTING PAID?

CAN WE GO HOME?

EHEHEHE.

!...

DUNNO.

WHAT ARE TWO GROUPS?

LET'S BEGIN.

OKAY.

HAVE THEY LINED UP, YO-KICHI?

Y-YEAH, SOME-HOW.

YOU, GO THIS WAY!

OW...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

AND YOU, THIS WAY!

AMONG THE TWO GROUPS, THOSE WHO MANAGE TO PUT THE BAG INTO THIS CIRCLE FIRST WILL PASS.

YOU WILL CARRY THOSE RICE BAGS, TURN AROUND THAT TREE AND RETURN.

*SCRATCH*

IT'S ONLY ABOUT 90 METERS.

PIECE OF CAKE!

YEAH.

THAT'S ALL?

.....

EASILY.

EASILY?

150 KG?

THE PEOPLE HERE CAN LIFT UP TO 150 KG.

EAS-ILY.

THAT'S THE BEST CRAFT PEASANTS WOULD COME UP WITH THEIR INTELLECT.

ALL THEY DO IS LIFTING STONES, RIGHT?

THEY ARE ALL FAMOUS IN THEIR VILLAGES FOR EXERCISING WITH STRENGTH STONES.

OH, THEY ALL HAVE WELL TRAINED BODIES.

ARE THE FIRST ONES READY?

I CAN'T LET THE BAG FALL ON THE GROUND.

IF YOU DROP THE BAG BEFORE PLACING IT INTO THE CIRCLE, YOU WILL FAIL AS WELL.

SOUNDS FUN. I BET ON TAROU FROM THE HIDA VILLAGE.

HEY, WANNA BET YOUR LUNCH?

AYE. ANY TIME.

READY!

START!

SHOW THEM THE WILL OF THE INAKI VILLAGE!

DON'T LOSE, HIDA VILLAGE!

GO! GO!

NUO-RY-AAA!

HAAH!

HAAH!

COME ON! HANG IN THERE!

JUST A BIT MORE!

OH... HE'S ON HIS WAY BACK!

ALTHOUGH DAISUKE FROM THE INAKI VILLAGE HAS MORE POWER.

TAROU FROM THE HIDA VILLAGE IS IN THE LEAD!

THEY'RE STAG-GERING.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM?

HII.

HAH.

HAHII.

HII.

HAHEE.

UGH!

PAM!

NEXT!

BOTH OF YOU HAVE FAILED.

GEEH.

HOW STUPID!

LOOK AT THOSE IDIOTS!

BRO, WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN?

NUO-RYA!

START!

FAIL!

BOTH OF YOU...

WAIT, YONE-KICHI.

IT'S FINALLY MY TURN.

WON'T HAPPEN TO ME!

IF YOU START RUNNING WITHOUT USING YOUR BRAIN, YOU WILL COLLAPSE HALFWAY.

JUST LISTEN TO ME.

LISTEN TO ME.

COME HERE.

WHY?

WHAT'S UP, BRO?

YOU WILL SPRINT WITH ALL YOU'VE GOT AFTER YOU TURN AROUND THE TREE.

I SAID, DO AS I SAY!

NO WAY!

FIRST YOU LET HIM PASS YOU.

WHY?!

WHAT?

IS THAT SO?

IT'S ONLY FEASIBLE AT FIRST GLANCE.

YOU GOTTA USE YOUR HEAD, YONEKICHI. GOT IT? YOUR HEAD.

THERE'S NOBODY THAT CAN RUN 90 METERS WITH A BAG OF RICE ON THEIR SHOULDERS.

OKAY, BRO.

DON'T GIVE HIM TOO MUCH OF A GAP THOUGH. JUST A LITTLE BIT, OKAY?

TSK.

YOU OKAY, SHINPEI?

LOOK, EVEN SHINPEI, WHO DEFEATED YOU IN SUMO LAST YEAR, IS EXHAUSTED!

YOU CAN'T WIN WITH RAW STRENGTH.

WOW!

I DID IT! I RAN IT!

BAM

SHUT UP!

READY!

HEY FATSO, CAN YOU EVEN RUN?

AYE.

ARE YOU READY?

YOU'RE NEXT.

START!

DON'T START RUNNING YET.

THAT'S THE WAY, YONE-KICHI.

!

IF YOU'RE HUNGRY, JUST EAT THE RICE FROM THAT BAG!

HAHAHA

PICK UP THE PACE, FATSO!

CAN HE EVEN RUN WITH THAT BELLY?

HMM ...

PUH!

PUH!

PUH!

SHUT UP WITH YOUR BREATHING!

YOU'LL DECIDE THE MATCH HALFWAY! DON'T RUN OUT OF BREATH!

.....

I'LL WIN THIS WITH A HUGE LEAD.

I CAN'T LOOK TOO LAME.

HE'S FINALLY GOING TO LEAVE THE FATSO BEHIND, HUH?

おおお

LOOK, MIKISUKE IS RUNNING FASTER.

PUH.

PUH.

YOUR EFFORTS ARE IN VAIN, FATSO.

AT THIS RATE, HE'LL BE COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED.

IT'S A RELIEF THAT MIKISUKE IS DUMB. HE'LL BE WORN OUT EVEN MORE NOW.

CRAP, IT'S HEAVY.

HAH.

HAH.

PHEW, I'VE FINALLY PASSED THE TREE.

EITHER WAY, WITH THAT MUCH GAP, WE KNOW WHO WILL WIN THIS...

YOU WOULDN'T KNOW HOW HARD THIS IS UNTIL YOU RUN YOURSELF.

EVEN MIKISUKE IS GETTING SLOWER NOW.

RUN WITH ALL YOU HAVE GOT!

YONEKICHI! DO IT NOW!

ブヒ ブヒ ブヒ

ドス

GUUH...

ブヒ

ブヒ

ブヒ

カバ

FUCK-ING FATSO!

NO WAY!

WHA- WHAT HAPPENED?

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! THE FATSO WON!

NO.

HMM... THAT FATSO ACTUALLY THOUGHT THIS THROUGH DESPITE BEING A PEASANT.

IT'S JUST AS BRO SAID.

IF I HAD RAN WITH FULL POWER FROM THE START, I'D BE DEAD.

NEXT!

ALRIGHT, YOU PASS.

SURE!

DON'T LOSE, BRO USHI-GOROU!

THAT GUY GAVE HIM THE ADVICE.

HUH?

HE'S AT A DISAD-VANTAGE.

HE IS QUITE SHORT.

AFTER A FATSO, WE HAVE A MIDGET THIS TIME?

HE PROBABLY ISN'T THAT FAST, CONSI-DERING HOW TALL HE IS.

WHAT?

THE VILLAGE GRAND-CHAMPION GYUUZOU, HUH?

AYE.

GET READY.

START!

BRO!

GO!

HANG IN THERE!

READY!

I'VE FAITH IN MY FEET, BUT I SHOULD JUST LET HIM PASS ME.

HAH!

HAH!

HAH!

I CAN'T RUN

AT MY OWN PACE.

HM?

I DIDN'T THINK HE WAS A FAST RUNNER.

I HAVE TO CLOSE THE GAP!

HAH!

HAH!

BAM

THAT GUY...

HAH!

HAH!

HAH!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BRO, CATCH UP!

THE MIDGET IS QUITE FAST, BUT...

THAT'S THE DIFFE-RENCE IN STRENGTH BETWEEN THEM.

GOOD. HE'S ONE OF THE IDIOTS THAT USE RAW STRENGTH.

WHAT HAPPENED?!

HAH!

HMPH.

SHIT... MY FEET AREN'T JUST GETTING WEAK, THEY ARE SLOWER AS WELL.

HAH!

HAH!

I'LL GO ALL OUT NOW!

HAH!

THERE IS TWO GOLD ON THE LINE.

I AIN'T LETTING HIM WIN.

I DON'T KNOW IF MY BODY WILL WITHSTAND THAT.

BUT...

NUOO-OOOH!

THE MIDGET IS CLOSING IN.

CAN HE PASS HIM THOUGH?

THAT MIDGET'S AMAZING!

THEY ARE EVEN!

WHOA...

HAH!

IN THAT CASE, I HAVE TO CHANGE MY TACTIC!

HAEEH!

SHIT, HE IS...

A MONSTER!

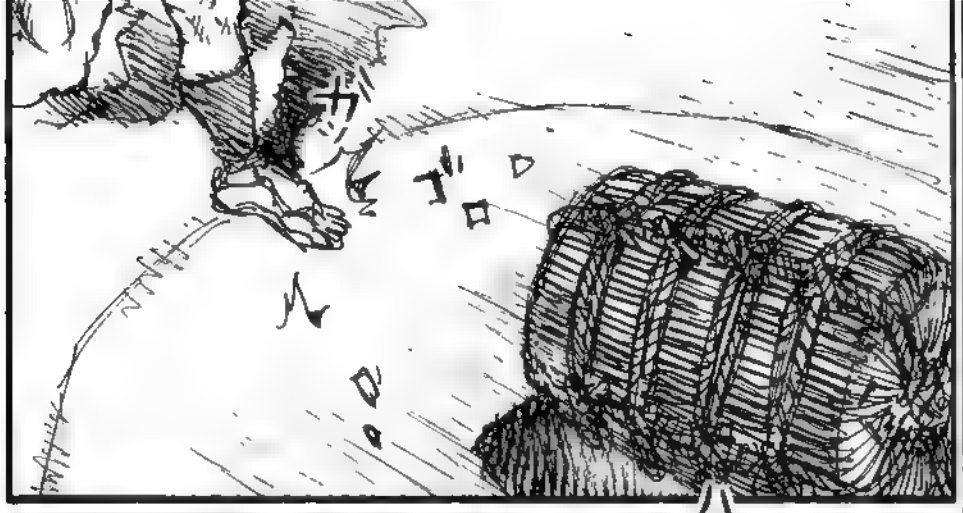
GOTTA PULL IT!

BRO!

GOTTA DO IT!

I DON'T CARE ANYMORE.

DESPE-RATION MOVE!




!


WHAT HAPPE-NED...?
WHAT...
THUD!


WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!


THIS IS CHEATING, MILORD!
HM...


I SEE.

EXPLAIN IT TO ME.

WHY DO YOU THINK HE CHEATED?

WAIT.

YOU HAVE A POINT. OKAY, YOU ARE THE WIN-

DUNNO.

BRO, DID YOU WIN?

I SAID THE FIRST PERSON TO TURN AROUND THE TREE AND PUT THE BAG INTO THE CIRCLE WINS.

EH?

WHY?

AND I SAID NOT TO DROP THE BAG UNTIL YOU PUT IT INTO THE CIRCLE.

BUT DOING IT LIKE THIS?

TAKE YOUR 300 MON AND LEAVE.

YOU LOST.

NO...

UH!

RIGHT.

YOU HAVE PUT THE BAG ON THE GROUND BEFORE PUTTING IT INTO THE CIRCLE.

YOU PASS.

AYE.

HEY, YOU.

YOU WON!

THE NEXT!

BRO, YOU WON!

.....

WHAT'S WRONG? GET MOVING.

I'LL WIN THE NEXT TIME!

RIGHT...

M-MY MOM IS SICK! 300 MON ISN'T ENO-UGH!

I'LL DO ANYTHING TO PASS...

I NEED THE MEDICINE, MILORD.

I HAVE MY CIRCUM-STANCES, AS WELL.

SORRY...

NEXT TIME!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? YOU WON, GET THE FORMALITIES DONE OVER THERE.

AYE.

AYE!

ARE YOU READY?

HM?

OH, DEAR...

WHOA, THEY'RE FIGHTING!

BRO, HIT HIM BACK!

YOU CHEATING BASTARD!

BECAUSE OF YOU...

I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU!

I'LL KILL YOU!

HEY, STOP.

WAI....

WH-AT?!

HEY.

STOP IT.

SHING!

HUH?

AAAH!

LET'S CONTINUE.

OKAY.

WHY ARE YOU JUST STANDING THERE?

WHAT'S WRONG?

HI-
HIIII....

MOTHER...

MO...

HEY, BRO.

.....?

HIM?

AH.

GOT IT?

THIS HAPPENS WHEN A PEASANT DEFIES A SAMURAI.

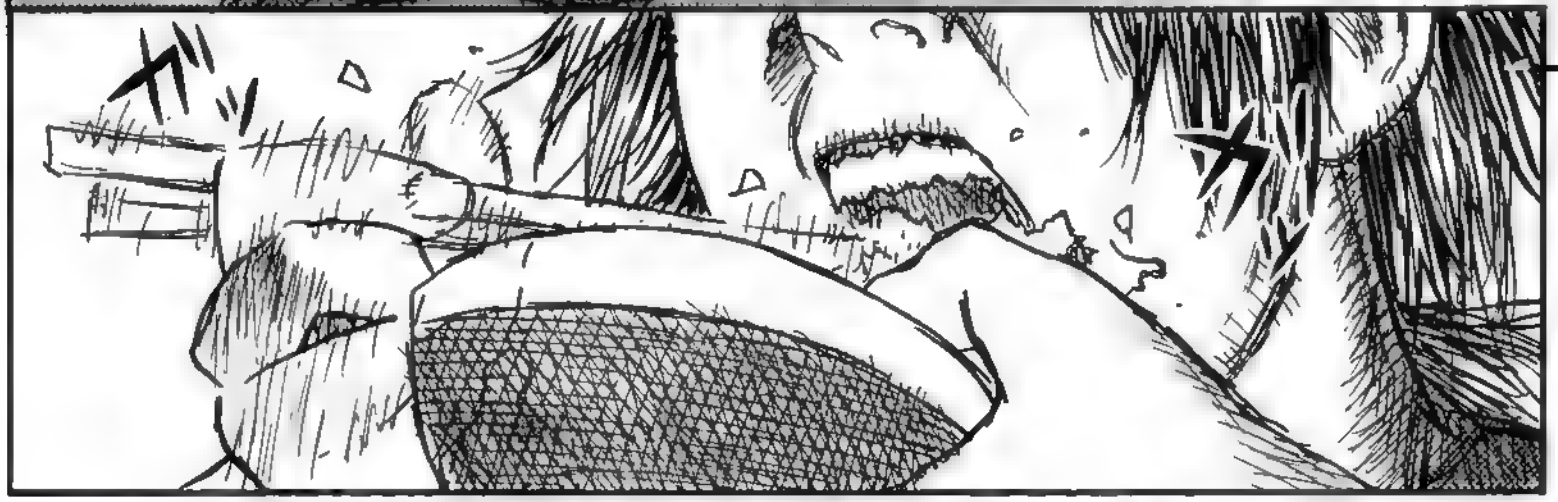




CHAPTER 2

# WHAT I'M MISSING






AND AFTER THE LAND TAX, WE ARE LEFT WITH NOTHING.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO, USHI, WE KEEP HAVING A BAD CROP.
RIGHT AWAY.
GIVE ME ANOTHER BOWL, CHIYO.
HEY.
NO MATTER HOW MANY BOWLS OF THIS LIGHT RICE PORRIDGE I EAT, I'M NOT GETTING FULL.

WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?

I TOLD YOU I DON'T KNOW.

WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING?

DUNNO.

WHEN ARE YOU COMING BACK?

チャ

I CAN'T BE PICKY ABOUT THE JOBS THAT I TAKE, IDIOT!

I'M GOING TO SURVIVE UNTIL THE NEXT CROP.

カチャ

カチャ

カチャ

YOU SHOULD STOP BITCHING ABOUT EVERYTHING.

BESIDES, BROTHER, WHEN YOU'RE OUT, THIS PLACE LACKS A MALE HELPING HAND.

THEN, YOU SHOULD PASS ON THIS JOB...

I SAID, I'D BE SERVING A SAMURAI!

THEN I'LL GET MARRIED!

WELL, IT DOESN'T SIT WELL WITH ME TO WORK UNDER A COCKY SAMURAI. YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE THEM.

KYAAH!

STOP IT, USHI!

I'LL NEVER SELL YOU TO A WHOREHOUSE!

DON'T YOU EVER SAY THAT AGAIN!

UNTIL I COME BACK, YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF THE OLD HAG!

GOT IT?!

I'M BACK!

BRO USHI!

BROTHER...

.....

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?

I'LL PREPARE FOOD FOR YOU.

?

OH, YONEKICHI, YOU'RE BACK

UHEHE. I'VE NO OTHER CHOICE IF YOU ASK ME, CHIYO-CHAN.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MY BROTHER.

NO.

EVERYTHING IS OKAY, YONEKICHI-SAN.

SHUT UP!

BRO, CHIYO-CHAN IS REALLY CUTE, ISN'T SHE?

USHI!

HEY!

HUH?

YOU ALSO GOT EMPLOYED BY THE SAMURAI CALLED SHIMADA-SAMA?

APPARENTLY HE MADE THE PEOPLE CARRY BAGS OR SOMETHING.

YEAH.

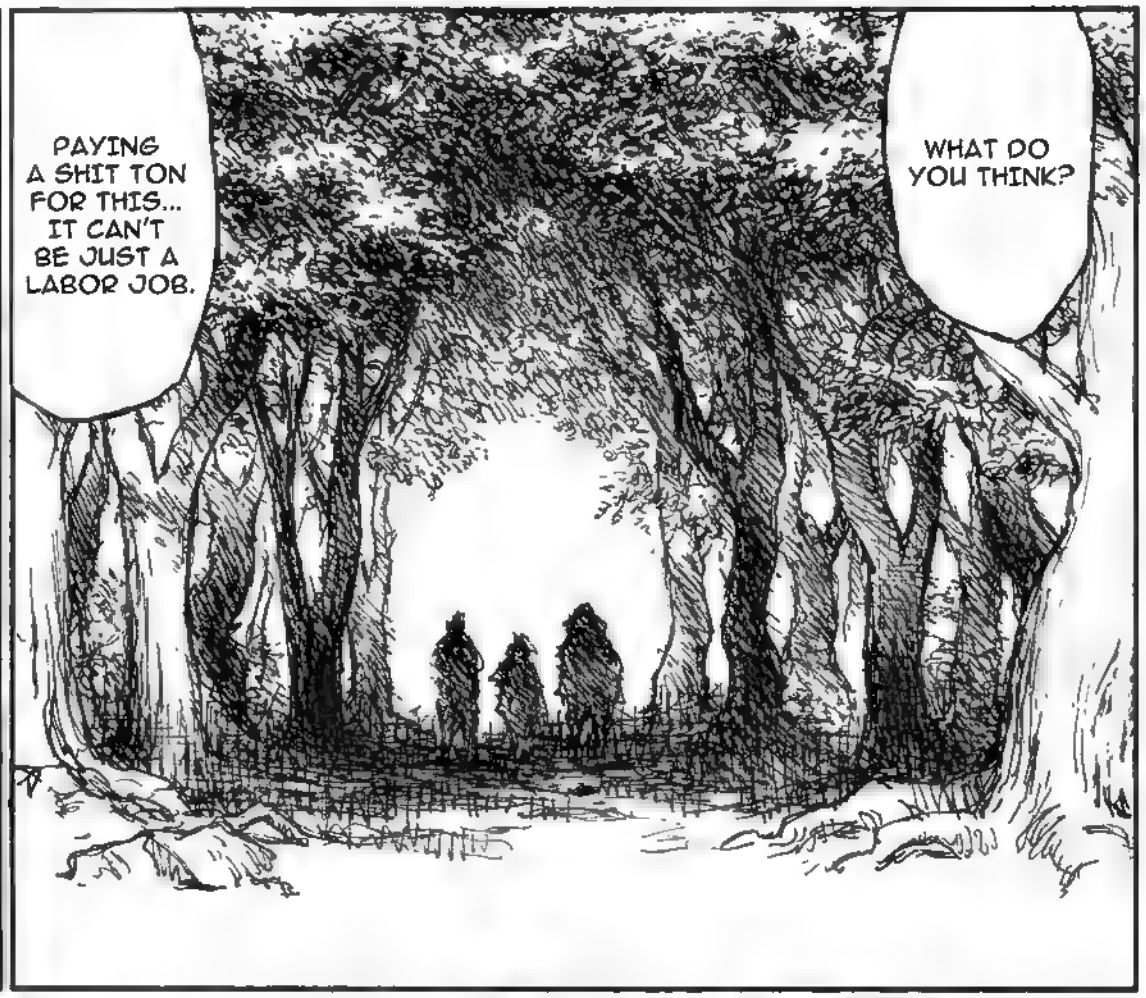
WHAT ELSE? DID HE GATHER THE PEASANTS AT THE KAMIKOIWA VILLAGE AS WELL?

OH, ICHIZOU!

SINCE YOU'RE CARRYING LUGGAGE, ARE YOU WITH US?




IT PAYS WELL, AFTER ALL.
SOUNDS SUSPICIOUS, BUT...


PAYING A SHIT TON FOR THIS... IT CAN'T BE JUST A LABOR JOB.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?


IT WASN'T NECESSARY TO KILL HIM...
I'VE HEARD THAT HE GOT KILLED.
OH YEAH. I FELT SORRY FOR GYUUZOU WHO GOT SLASHED.
...


HE'S PLANNING SOME-THING.
DUNNO, BUT THAT SHIMADA GUY...
MM-HM.


WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY SUSPI-CIOUS?
WHAT IS HE PLANNING FOR US PEASANTS TO DO?

NO MATTER HOW HARD A PEASANT WORKS, HE CAN'T DEFY A SAMURAI. THAT'S HOW THIS SOCIETY WORKS.

THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT.

NOBODY COULD BEAT HIM IN A FIGHT...

HE WAS A GRAND CHAMPION OF HIS VILLAGE, AFTER ALL.

YEAH! WE ALL WOULDN'T LOSE TO THE STRONGEST SAMURAI!

EH?

THAT AIN'T OKAY, BRO USHI!

HM?

YOU'RE JESTING...

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.




THE AIR IS SURE NICE IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE.


OH, SHEESH.
KOJIMA AND THE OTHERS ARE SINGING, TOO.


FUCKING SAMURAIS!
GET LOST ALREADY!


HEY, PEASANTS.


INDEED.

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

MILORD.

CAN WE REACH SHIMOUSA'S SAKURA BY FOLLOWING THIS WAY?

I'VE A QUESTION.

DON'T STRAY FROM THE ROAD MIDWAY AND YOU WILL BE THERE.

YES, MILORD. YOU HAVE TO GO THIS WAY.

I HOPE YOU DON'T TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY.

YOU'RE VERY HOSPITABLE PEASANTS.

I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING DECENT TO GIVE.

I SEE.

MM-HM.

BUH!

EH?

BRO!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WHAT...

YONEKICHI!

USHI...

GUEH!

IF YOU DISRESPECT YOUR LORD, I'LL SLASH YOU.

"UNSHEATHE."

THIS HAS PROVEN TO BE A GOOD EXERCISE.

YEP.

GUEH!

OH, YOU'RE RIGHT. *HEHEHE*

UESUGI-SAMA. WE WILL BE LATE, IF WE DON'T GET GOING.

*UGH.*

STOP IT, ICHIZOU.

FIGHT ME WITH FISTS, YOU BASTARDS!

BAS-TARDS!

ARE YOU OKAY, ICHIZOU?

チャ

THEY ARE HOR-RIBLE!

THEY WILL EXECUTE YOU.

IF YOU HIT A SAMURAI,

THE HIERARCHY IN THE SOCI-ETY WON'T CHANGE THAT EASILY.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

I WISH THIS STUPID "PLACE IN THE SOCIETY" WOULD COME TO AN END!

I'LL CUT THEM ALL DOWN!

LET'S GO, YONE-KICHI.

THEN I'LL BECOME A SAMURAI AS WELL!

O-OKAY.

ALRIGHT. I'M IM-PRESSED! YOU WERE ALL ON TIME HERE.

THAT'S ALL OF YOU?

STAND UP AND ANSWER WHEN I CALL YOU OUT.

I'LL READ OUT YOUR NAME AND VILLAGE, THEN.

UMEKICHI.

HERE!

KAMI-YATSUKA VILLAGE.

H-HERE!

KANAMACHI VILLAGE, RIHACHI.

HERE...

HANAMATA VILLAGE, SHINPEI.

HERE!

PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

IKOU VILLAGE, CHIYO-MATSU.

HERE!

HE'S HUGE.

SHISHIHONE VILLAGE, YONEKICHI.

UH. HERE.

KOAI FIELD, GENJI.

HERE.

KAMIKOIWA VILLAGE, ICHIZOU.

I'M SO PISSED...

HERE.

OOSONE VILLAGE, WASA-BUROU.

HEERE!

TOGASAKI VILLAGE, SENTA.

HERE!

USHI-GOROU.

HIGASHI-ICHINOE VILLAGE,

MY NAME IS SHIMADA KOUNO-SUKE.

AND THIS IS WADA ROKUROU-DONO.

NICE TO MEET YOU.

THE WAY THOSE PEASANTS REPLY IS PISSING ME OFF...

IT MAKES TEN OF YOU.

THAT'S ALL.

DURING YOUR EMPLOYMENT, IT'S PROHIBITED TO LEAVE THIS RESIDENCE WITHOUT PERMISSION.

IF YOU DISOBEY OUR ORDERS WE WILL...

I'LL SAY THIS FROM THE BEGINNING. DON'T EXPECT TO RETURN HOME FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS.

IF IT TAKES LONGER, WE WILL COMPENSATE YOU FOR EACH DAY, SO DON'T WORRY.

...KILL YOU

I'LL EXPLAIN WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.

NOW, BACK TO BUSINESS.

PEOPLE CALL THESE ACTS "TERROR" AND THEY CAUSE ANXIETY AMONG THE PEOPLE.

THESE ACTS ARE PERPETRATED BY OUTLAWS TRYING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT.

THIS IS THE WORK OF THE WARRIORS OF SATSUMA DOMAIN AND THE RONINS THEY HAVE HIRED.

RIGHT NOW, THE INNER CITY OF EDO IS SUBJECT TO RAMPANT ARSON, ROBBERIES AND RANDOM KILLINGS. THE PUBLIC ORDER IS IN A BAD STATE.

ALTHOUGH IT'S PEACEFUL IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE.

YEAH.

I'VE HEARD OF THIS.

EH?

...OF SATSU-MA?

WE WILL FIGHT AGAINST THE SAMURAI...

TO STRIKE THEM DOWN AND BRING JUSTICE.

YOUR JOB WILL BE,

NO NEED TO BE WORRIED ABOUT THAT.

IF PEASANTS LIKE US ATTACK SAMURAIS,

WE WILL BE EXECUTED, THOUGH...

WE'RE AN OFFICIAL SQUADRON RECOGNIZED BY THE SHOGUNATE.

THE GOVERNOR PERSONALLY ORDERED ME TO GATHER YOU PEASANTS.

YOU, THE SHORT ONE.

HEY, YOU.

DO YOU HATE SAMURAIS?

USHIGOROU IS THE NAME.

A-AYE.

TSK.

NO SHIT. OF COURSE I HATE THEM...

.....

WELL? YOU CAN'T ANSWER?

I'D HATE THEM SO MUCH, THAT I COULDN'T STOP KILL-ING THEM.

IF I WERE A PEASANT,

HMPH, COWARD.

WELL...

THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO FORGET THE TROUBLES YOU USUALLY HAVE.

AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'LL RECEIVE TWO GOLD!

HAVEN'T YOU THOUGHT ABOUT KILLING THEM AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE?

I HAVEN'T!

THEY TAKE AWAY WHAT YOU HAVE WORKED SO HARD ON WITH THE PRETEXT OF "LAND TAX."

AND ON TOP OF THAT THEY ARE ARRO-GANT AND RUB IT INTO YOUR FACE.

YOU MIGHT BE BESTOWED THE STATUS OF A SAMURAI.

EH?

IT MEANS, DEPENDING ON YOUR WORK,

THE GOVERNOR HAS HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF YOU.

ALTHOUGH YOU'RE JUST PEASANTS, YOUR UNUSUAL STRENGTH IS PROMISING.

YOU WILL BECOME A REAL SAMURAI.

IN OTHER WORDS,

I WON'T FORCEFULLY EMPLOY ANY COWARDS WHO REJECT THIS JOB DESPITE SUCH FAVORABLE CONDITIONS.

I'LL LET YOU SLEEP OVER THIS.

SAMURAI?

SA...

WE WILL?

SAMURAI-SAMA!

SA...

UHM...

W-WILL WE...

REALLY BECOME SAMURAIS? REAL SAMURAIS?

SPEAK UP.

WHAT?

REAL SAMURAIS.

YEAH.

YOU'RE DIS-MISSED.

THAT'S ALL?

.....

WE WILL BECOME... SAMU-RAIS...

PIPE DOWN, HE'LL HEAR YOU!

HEY, SO WHAT DO WE DO?

AYE!

GATHER UP HERE AT 6 A.M. BEFORE THE DAYBREAK.

THE FOOD IS READY.

I'LL ACCOM-PANY YOU TO YOUR QUARTERS.

I'VE BEEN ORDERED TO SERVE HIM. MY NAME IS YOKICHI CHUUMON.

I'VE MADE ENOUGH FOOD TILL TOMOR-ROW.

YOU CAN EAT AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.

THE FISH IS BOILED IN SEA-WATER AND THERE IS KAMABOKO AND WHITE RICE!

TH-THIS IS A FEAST!

SO... WHAT ARE YOU GUYS GONNA DO?

ARE YOU ACCEPTING THIS JOB, SHINPEI?

UGAAH! YOU BASTARD!

SENTA, YOU HAVE BEEN A WIMP SINCE YOUR CHILDHOOD!

AND WE CAN EVEN KILL OTHER SAMURAIS!

COULD ANYONE DARE TO SAY ANYTHING WHEN YOU PROUDLY WALK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD?

THEY CAN'T.

I'LL BECOME A SAMURAI!

SECONDS FOR ME, TOO!

PEOPLE CAN'T LOOK SMUG AT A SAMURAI!

SECONDS!

THE DAYS OF WORKING ON THE FIELD JUST TO PAY OFF THE LAND TAX ARE OVER!

SURE.

SURE, YOU CAN HAVE IT.

IF YOU AREN'T EATING, GIVE IT TO ME.

WHAT'S WRONG, BRO? AREN'T YOU EATING?

ALRIGHT! WE'LL ALL BECOME SAMURAIS!

WE'LL SHOW THOSE GUYS WHO MADE FUN OF US!

HM?

IDIOTS WHO DON'T THINK THIS THROUGH THOROUGHLY WILL BE USED AND THROWN AWAY.

THAT'S NOT IT.

YOU DON'T WANT TO BECOME A SAMURAI?

WHAT'S WRONG, USHI?

WHY THE GRIM FACE?

THIS SOUNDS ODD.

YET, THEY MAKE PEOPLE WHO DO THIS A SAMURAI?

THEY COULD HAVE DONE IT THEMSELVES.

YEAH... YOU HAVE A POINT.

THOSE SAMURAIS COULD HAVE DONE IT THEMSELVES.

WHY ARE THEY MAKING US PEASANTS DO THIS JOB?

SORRY, BUT MY GUT FEELING IS HARDLY WRONG.

I CAN'T TRUST HIM.

BESIDES, HAVE YOU SEEN THE LOOK ON THAT SHIMADA GUY'S FACE?

COWARDS AREN'T CUT OUT TO BE SAMURAIS!

YOU AREN'T CAUTIOUS, YOU'RE JUST SCARED!

CUT IT OUT, USHI.

TO MOVE UP ON THE LADDER, YOU CAN'T JUST USE BRUTE FORCE. YOU HAVE TO USE YOUR HEAD FOR THAT.

THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF SAMURAIS!

WHAT?

AND WHAT'S THE POINT WHEN AN IDIOT LIKE YOU BECOMES A SAMURAI?

WHAT DO YOU CALL A SAMURAI WHO STANDS ON THE TOP?

IF YOU THINK WORKING IN THE FIELD IS GOOD,

YEAH!

RIGHT! USHI, YOU'RE THINKING TOO MUCH.

WHEN YOU BECOME A SAMURAI, YOU CAN EAT AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.

BRO, YOU'RE OVER-THINKING THIS.

EVERYONE IS AGREEING WITH ME.

YOU'RE THE ONLY IDIOT HERE.

SEE, USHI?

THEN, ICHIZOU... ARE YOU SAYING THAT IT'S OKAY FOR SAMURAIS TO PICK ON PEASANTS?!

BRO, STOP IT.

ARE YOU SAYING IT'S CORRECT, JUST BECAUSE EVERYONE SAYS THAT?

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, ICHIZOU?!

WHAT?

GH...

HMPF...

EVERYONE SAYS THAT'S NORMAL.

AH... THE FOOD!

B-BRO. CALM DOWN...

YOU'RE ANNOYING. IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, SPIT IT OUT!

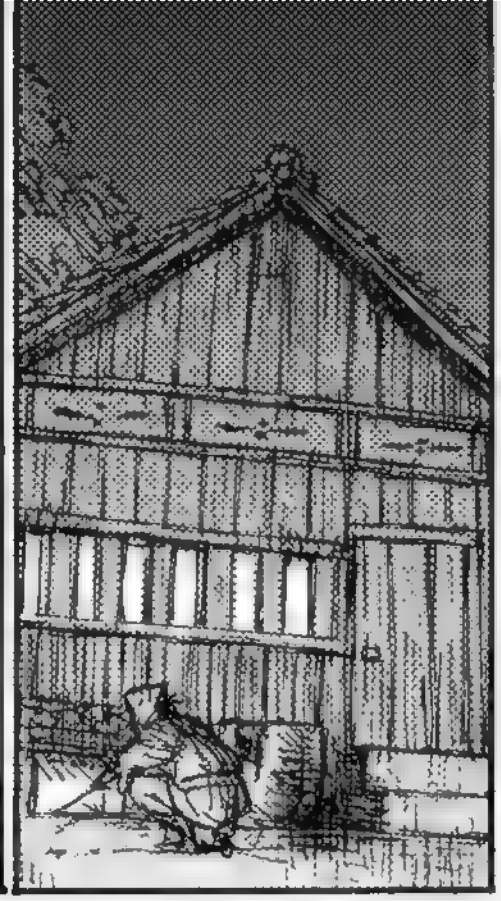
ALRIGHT, I'LL SPIT IT OUT!

THE ONES WHO FINISHED FIRST ENTER THE BATH.

THE BATH IS FREE.

CUT IT OUT YOU TWO, SHIMADA-SAMA WILL KILL YOU!


ブッ
ブッ
ブッ





THE DANGEROUS ONES ARE THOSE WHO GRASP THE WHOLE PICTURE AND STAND ON THE TOP.

I'LL ATTAIN WHAT I'M MISSING...

IT'S TIME!

WAKE UP!

MM-HM.

S-SO COLD...

GET MOVING!

FORM A LINE!

PUT YOUR NAME AND YOUR THUMB-PRINT ON THE BOOK. YOKICHI WILL HELP THOSE WHO CAN'T WRITE.

ALRIGHT, ALL TEN OF YOU WILL BE PARTICI-PATING IN THIS.

THAT'S QUITE A NICE DISPLAY OF SPIRIT, PEASANTS.

LOOKS LIKE THERE ISN'T A SINGLE COWARD AMONG YOU.

WEREN'T YOU GOING TO RUN AWAY FROM THIS?

WHAT'S UP, USHI?

SHUT UP!

.....

# CHAPTER 3 ONE-STRIKE, ONE-KILL SQUAD



ガチャ

ガチャ

ガラ

HURRY!

EVERYONE TAKE ONE OF THE SWORDS AND WEAR IT AROUND YOUR HIPS LIKE I DO, SO THE EDGE POINTS TO THE GROUND.

PREPARE TO TRAIN YOURSELVES THOROUGHLY!

STARTING TODAY, YOU'LL PRACTICE WITH A SWORD FOR TWO WEEKS.

ガチャ

ガチャ

FATSO!

DON'T UNSHEATHE IT UNTIL I TELL YOU TO!

LINE UP!

CHING

YOU HOLD THE SCABBARD WITH YOUR LEFT HAND WHILE PUTTING YOUR RIGHT HAND ON THE GRIP. THEN YOU USE YOUR LEFT THUMB TO PUSH OPEN THE MOUTH OF THE SWORD.

PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO SHIMADA-DONO'S MOVE-MENTS.

GOOD.

FIRST, WE'LL PRAC-TICE HOW TO SHEATHE AND UNSHEATHE THE BLADE.

スラ

おーー

DON'T RUSH. DO IT SLOWLY AND WITH CONFIDENCE.

ONE, YOU HOLD THE SWORD. TWO, YOU OPEN THE MOUTH OF THE SWORD. THREE, YOU PULL IT OUT.

Ching

IT'S YOUR TURN. DO IT.

ONE!

READY?

SPREAD OUT A LITTLE, OR YOU'LL HURT EACH OTHER.

SLOWLY, UNDER-STOOD? SLOWLY...

ズ ズ

THREE!

ズ

TWO!

CHING

CHING

OKAY, THAT'S GOOD.

CHING

IT'S HEAVIER THAN I THOUGHT.

"SHORT TERM INTENSIVE LETHAL TRAINING GUIDE-LINE," HUH?

YES, I'VE READ IT.

KATSU-SAMA, AS YOU HAVE REQUESTED, THIS TRAINING PROGRAM IS GEARED TOWARDS THEIR GROWTH IN TWO WEEKS.

IF THEY PRACTICE FOLLOWING THIS GUIDELINE, I'M POSITIVE THAT EVEN THOSE AMATEURS SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIGHT WITH A SWORD.

SOMEONE WHO HASN'T SET FOOT IN A DOJO AND WHO DOESN'T KNOW THE ART OF THE SWORD COULDN'T HAVE WRITTEN THIS.

THIS IS AN EXTRAORDINARY WORK, EVEN FOR VETERAN SOLDIERS OF THE SHINSENGUMI SUCH AS YOU TWO, SHIMADA-KUN AND WADA-KUN.

THEY ARE CURRENTLY RESIDING AT THE UTSU FAMILY'S RESIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE PROVIDED IN THE SHIROGANE VILLAGE.

TOMORROW, SIR.

SO, WHEN ARE YOU STARTING THE TRAINING, SHIMADA-KUN?

ON YOUR SIDE, YOU GOT THEM WITH THE PROMISE OF THE STATUS OF THE SAMURAI AND AN EXORBITANT SUM OF MONEY, AFTER ALL.

THE PEASANT'S MORALE IS EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH.

HOW ARE THEY?

## DAY 1

## FRONTAL SLASH WITH BOTH HANDS

WHAT WAS THAT?

BOTH?

WATCH ME SLASH FROM WHERE YOU STAND.

OKAY, I'LL SHOW YOU THE FRONTAL SLASH WITH BOTH HANDS NOW.

HII!

CHI

AND THEN SWING IT STRAIGHT DOWN WITHOUT WAVING IT.

YOU HOLD THE SWORD OVER YOUR HEAD. WHEN YOU HOLD IT ALOFT, YOU HOLD THE HANDLE TIGHTLY WITH BOTH OF YOUR HANDS.

THESE ARE THE BASICS! MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THEM WELL.

ON ONE, YOU GET IN YOUR STANCE. ON TWO, YOU DRAW YOUR SWORD AND SHOUT.

GOTCHA.

USE YOUR FISTS AS IF YOU'RE WRINGING A CLOTH TO HOLD THE GRIP. THE HILT SHOULD BE IN THE ANGLE THAT'S AROUND THE CENTER OF YOUR BODY AND THE POINT OF THE SWORD SHOULD BE A LITTLE LOWER THAN A HORIZONTAL LINE.

MAKE A BIG STEP FORWARD WITH YOUR RIGHT FOOT AND THEN KEEP YOUR WEIGHT ON YOUR RIGHT LEG. USE YOUR LEG WHEN SLASHING AND NOT YOUR CHEST.

SLOWLY! BE CAREFUL WHILE DRAWING OUT YOUR SWORD.

DRAW YOUR SWORD!

TWO!

SLASH!

ONE!

TAKE STANCE!

YOU AREN'T GOING TO SLASH ANYONE LIKE THAT!

ALL OF YOU! YOUR BLADES ARE WAVERING!

FLUNG

HAUH!

I'M PRACTICING HOW TO BECOME A MURDERER.

WHEN YOU SHOUT, YOU DON'T SAY "SHIT", BUT "EI," OR "YEAH" OR "TOOOH".

RIGHT... WE'RE GOING TO KILL PEOPLE...

DERY AAA!

TWO!

YOUR BLADE WAVERS BECAUSE YOU TRY TO RUSH IT!

YOU SWING THE SWORD WITH YOUR LOWER HALF OF THE BODY AND NOT WITH YOUR ARM.

TWO!

ONE!

PUH!

ONE MORE TIME.

THE UNIT YOU'RE TRAINING WILL BE DEALING WITH THEM.

IT'S ASSUMED, THAT SATSUMA IS BEHIND THESE ACTS.

THERE HAS BEEN FREQUENT ROBBERIES, ARSONS AND RANDOM KILLING IN THE CITY OF EDO...

THIS IS PRACTICALLY TERRORISM.

IS THERE A REASON WHY WE ARE GOING THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF TRAINING PEASANTS FROM SCRATCH FOR THIS?

WADA AND I HAVE PRACTICALLY DESERTED OUR ACTUAL UNITS FOR THIS PLAN.

IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION, GO AHEAD.

YES?

PLEASE LEAVE IT TO ME.

HOWEVER...

AS I SAID EARLIER, IT'S JUST AN ASSUMPTION THAT SATSUMA IS BEHIND THIS.

HAHA... IT'S QUITE SIMPLE ACTUALLY.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS IN SECRECY?

I THINK WE SHOULD SEND THE PUNITIVE CORPS LIKE WE DO IN THE CAPITAL TO KILL THEM ALL.

コポポ

……

IN ORDER TO CATCH THEM, WE CAN'T RISK DOING THIS PUBLICLY.

AFTER ALL, WE HAVE TO PROTECT OUR HOUSE, TOO. OUR MASTER DOESN'T TRUST US ENOUGH TO LIVE NEARBY, RIGHT?

IF WE SEND THE PUNITIVE CORPS, PUBLIC OPINION WON'T BE IN OUR FAVOR.

YOU SHOULD GIVE IT A TRY, TOO.

IT'S PLUM-KELP TEA.

OH, THIS IS PRETTY GOOD!

HERE.

THANKS.

YOU'RE ALWAYS SO THOUGHTFUL!

SHIZU-CHAN, THIS TASTES GREAT!

SHIZU...

CLOSE

ALSO...

DON'T RELY ON THEM.

I DOUBT THE RETAINERS OF THE SHOGUN OR HIS VASSALS, WHO ONLY THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN SAFETY, WOULD BE UP FOR THIS.

EVEN THOUGH YOU'LL BE WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES, IT'S STILL AN IMPORTANT DUTY.

THAT'S THE REASON WHY I ASKED HIJIKATA-KUN AND SENT PEOPLE FROM THE INNER CIRCLE IN SECRECY.

## DAY TWO

## THRUSTING WITH BOTH HANDS

NEXT, WE PRACTICE THRUSTING WITH BOTH HANDS FOR A FRONTAL DECAPITATING SLASH.

UNSHEATHE YOUR SWORD AND TAKE A STANCE LIKE THE LAST TIME.

BEAU-TIFUL, WADA-DONO!

ヒソ

ヒソ

TOOH!

AND THRUST YOUR SWORD FOR-WARD.

THE LOWER HALF OF YOUR BODY REMAINS THE SAME.

GET READY!

JUST LIKE THE FRONTAL SLASH WITH BOTH HANDS YOU'VE LEARNED IN DAY ONE, YOU WILL PRACTICE IT TILL EVENING.

DON'T FORGET TO HOLD THE GRIP TIGHTLY.

## DAY 3

## DIAGONAL SLASH WITH BOTH HANDS

YOU SLASH FROM LEFT OR THE RIGHT SIDE.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FRONTAL SLASH AND A DIAGONAL SLASH IS YOURPOSTURE.

THE THREE MOVES I'VE TAUGHT YOU ARE ALL THE OFFENSIVE MOVES.

JUST THOSE THREE?

I GUESS YOU HAD A TALENT FOR THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

YOU MADE A TREMENDOUS PROGRESS COMPARED TO THE FIRST DAY.

MM.

NOT BAD.

WE'LL ARREST ALL THE OUTLAWS HANGING OUT AT THE SATSUMA RESIDENCE AND GIVE THEM THE APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT.

AT THIS RATE, OUR VALUE AS SHOGUNATE VASSALS WILL DROP.

WE CANNOT LET THEM DO AS THEY PLEASE ANYMORE.

WE CAN NO LONGER WAIT FOR THEM TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE AND "LACK OF EVIDENCE" WON'T FLY AS AN EXCUSE.

KATSU-DONO...

WE SHOULD SIGNAL THAT WE'RE READY TO GO TO WAR.

WITH SUCH A WEAK DIPLOMATIC APPROACH, THEY WILL ONLY BECOME MORE ARROGANT.

WE SHOULDN'T JUMP THE GUN.

BUT OGURI-DONO... WE'RE STILL INVESTI-GATING... WE SHOULD WAIT A BIT LONGER...

YOU'RE TOO SOFT!

EH?

AH, YOU'RE TALKING TO ME?

UHH...

BESIDES, THE ENEMY ISN'T JUST WITHIN. THERE'S ALSO THE EUROPEANS. THIS IS NO TIME TO START A CIVIL WAR...

WHY DON'T THEY GET IT? IF WE START THE CONFLICT, WE WILL LOSE OUR LEVERAGE ON NEGOTIA TIONS...

SUBJUGATE SATSUMA!

THIS IS SUCH A PROBLEM.

DO OR DIE RESIS-TANCE!

NO OBJEC-TIONS!

YOU FOOLS! GOING TO WAR IS EXACTLY WHAT SATSUMA WANTS!

NO OBJEC-TIONS!

DAMN OLD MAN...

NOT EVEN TEN DAYS...

OTHER-WISE, WE WON'T EVEN LAST TWO WEEKS.

IT'S MORE URGENT THAN I THOUGHT.

HOWEVER I CAN'T KEEP THEM DOWN ANY LONGER.

I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF THESE TERRORISTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

**DAY 4**

**TARGET PRACTICE**

**SLASHING WHILE DASHING AS WELL AS SLASHING ON THE SPOT**

DASH AND SLASH DIAGONAL-LY!

TRY SLASHING AFTER YOU HAVE PULLED UP YOUR BLADE A BIT MORE.

YOU'RE TOO FAST, USHIGOROU.

AYE.

TORY AAAH!

YONE-KICHI!

BE CAREFUL! DON'T HURT YOURSELF.

THE DISTANCE SHOULD BE CLOSE ENOUGH TO PUNCH YOUR OPPONENT. OTHERWISE YOU CAN'T STRIKE HIM DOWN IN A SINGLE SLASH.

YEAH.

ARE YOU AL-RIGHT?

OWW.

YOKICHI, REPLACE THE TARGET.

AYE.

MY SWORD...

HUH?

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? GET BACK TO TRAINING!

ARE YOU SERI-OUS?

WHAT DO I DO BRO? THE SWORD...

YONEKICHI IS GONNA BE EXE-CUTED...

THIS IS BAD...

I DID SOME-THING UNFORGIV-ABLE...

I'VE BEND YOUR SOUL, YOUR BLADE, LORD SAMURAI.

WHAT ABOUT IT?

YOUR BLADE IS BENT.

YOU CAN JUST REPLACE IT WITH ANOTHER ONE.

THIS IS MERELY A TOOL.

AYE.

YOKICHI, BRING ANOTHER BLADE.

WHAT ARE YOU BABBL-ING?

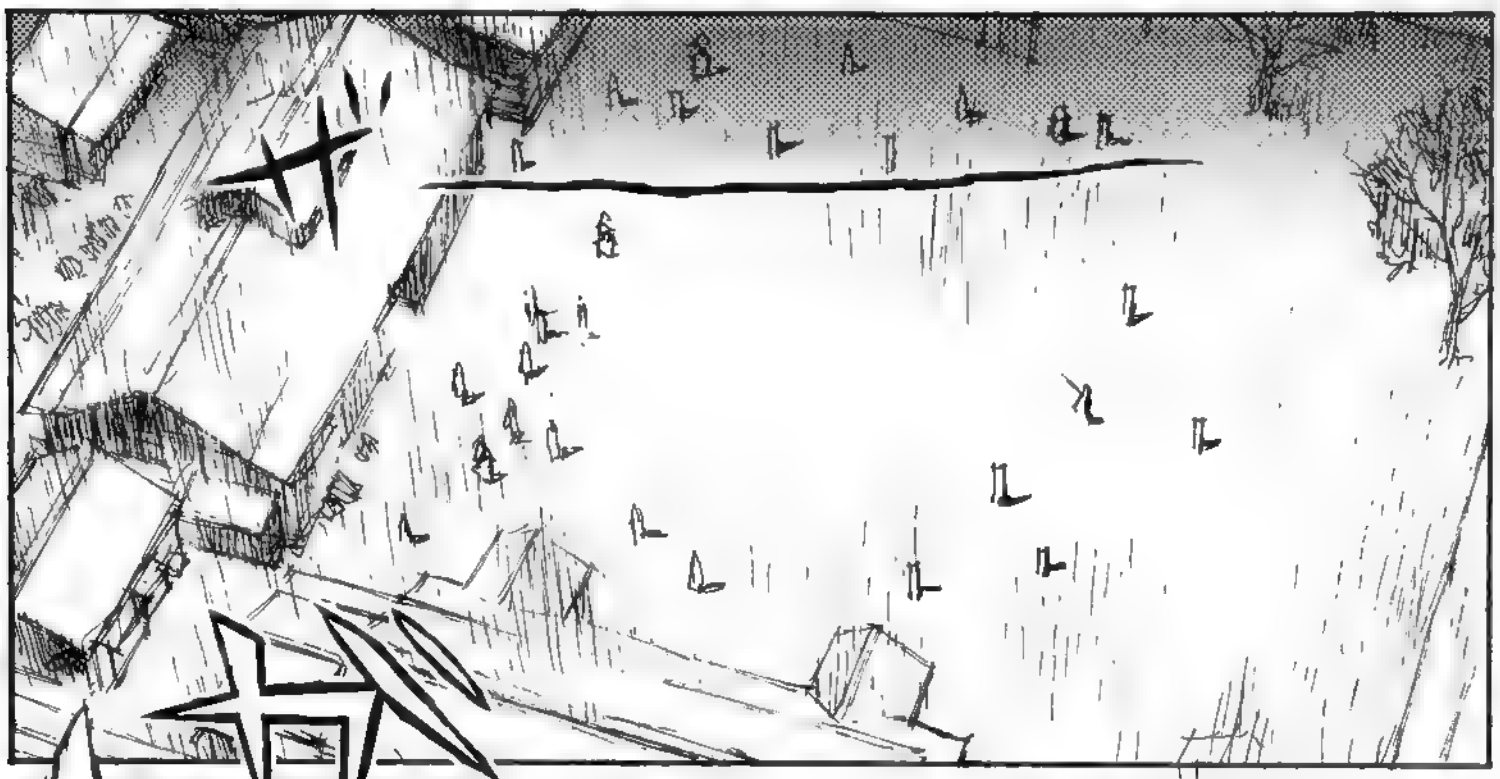
IT'S JUST A BLADE. WHEN IT'S NOT USABLE, JUST THROW IT AWAY...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN A SAMURAI'S SOUL?

**DAY 5**

**PENETRATING THE TARGET SEVERAL TIMES ON AN UNEVEN TERRAIN**

**PRACTICING COORDINATED ACTION, PART ONE**





YOU WILL RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN AND STRIKE THE TARGETS THAT ARE SCATTERED AROUND HERE!

IT'S RAINING! WHICH MEANS, IT'S THE PERFECT WEATHER FOR YOU TO USE YOUR BLADES!

きぇ
ぇぇ
ぇ
わぁ
あ
あ
とぅ
ぁ

FASTER!

RUN!
RUN!

DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF, USHIGOROU!

CHIEEEH!

GYAAAA AAAAH!

TSK!

YOU ARE STILL NOT GETTING CLOSE ENOUGH!

... AND INJURED HIMSELF WITH HIS BLADE.

RIHACHI-SAN SUDDENLY TURNED...

HEE....

LET ME SEE IT.

I... I'M FINE. THIS IS NOTHING.

WHAT IS IT?

I SAID, I'M FINE. I CAN STILL GO ON.

IT'S OKAY. YOU'LL JUST SLOW US DOWN.

LET YOKICHI TAKE HIM TO A DOCTOR.

HE CUT HIMSELF DOWN TO THE BONE. WE CAN'T USE HIM.

EH...

HOW IS IT, SHIMADA-DONO?

.....

THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK.

WE'LL PAY YOU THE 3000 MON AND YOUR DAILY FEE.

IF YOU DON'T FOCUS, YOU'LL GET HURT BY YOUR OWN BLADE.

NOW GET BACK TO PRACTICE WITH THAT IN MIND.

AS YOU CAN SEE.

I'M BEGGING YOU...

PLEASE WAIT, SHIMADA-DONO...

WE'RE OUT OF TIME.

?

WE HAVE NO TIME.

ACTU-ALLY... THE REASON YOU'RE HERE TODAY IS...

UH... OH YEAH...

AH... IT'S NOTH-ING.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, KATSU-SAMA?

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IMPROV-ING IT A LITTLE.

ABOUT THIS GUIDELINE... I HAVE A SUGGES-TION.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, EXACTLY?

.....

**DAY 6**

**PENETRATING THE TARGET SEVERAL TIMES ON AN UNEVEN TERRAIN AT NIGHT**

**PRACTICING COORDINATED ACTION, PART TWO**

WHEN YOU'RE FIGHTING AS A GROUP, YOU HAVE TO KEEP THIS IN MIND:

SINCE YOU CAN'T USE YOUR EYES AT NIGHT, YOU HAVE TO USE ALL YOUR SENSES TO GRASP THE SITUATION.

YOU WILL MOVE TOGETHER, IN A COORDINATED MANNER AS YOU'VE PRACTICED DURING THE DAY.

FURTHER-MORE, KEEP AN EYE ON THE POSITION OF YOUR ALLIES.

IN ORDER TO PREVENT FRIENDLY FIRE, DO NOT TAKE INDIVIDUAL ACTION!

PR/N — BASED OFF A JAPANESE POEM, I-RO-HA ROUGHLY MEANS "ABC"

GROUP RO, FORWARD!

GROUP I, FORWARD!

GROUP RO, FACE THE RIGHT SIDE!

GROUP I, FORWARD!

DRAW YOUR SWORDS!

WAAA

YOU ALONE WILL RECEIVE SPECIAL TRAINING.

USHI-GOROU.

I WANT YOU TO RUN AT ME AND USE A DIAGONAL SLASH.

SO, I'LL BE THE TARGET.

I FIGURED THAT YOU DIDN'T GET QUITE THE RIGHT FEELING WHILE ATTACKING THE TARGET.

YOU SEEM TO BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN'T GET CLOSE ENOUGH WHILE STRIKING.

THIS MIGHT BE HARD FOR YOU, SINCE YOU ARE SHORT.

IF YOU CAN'T DO IT, YOU CAN PACK YOUR STUFF AND GO.

OTHERWISE, IT WON'T SERVE AS PRACTICE.

COME AT ME WITH THE INTENT OF KILLING.

DON'T HOLD BACK.

EH... BUT...

WHAT?

EVEN WITH A SWORD IN YOUR HAND, YOU CAN'T BEAT A SAMURAI. YOU'RE JUST A COWARD.

IN THE END, YOU'RE JUST A PEASANT.

WHAT'S WRONG? COME AT ME, USHIGOROU!

WHY THAT COCKY LOOK? YOU'RE MERELY A PEASANT.

WHAT'S WITH THOSE EYES?

I'LL PLAY ALONG.

ANYWAY, FOR THE SAKE OF IT

I'M NOT DUMB ENOUGH TO BE PROVOKED...

*BREATH IN*

TOOOH!

I TOLD YOU THAT YOU STEP IN TOO QUICKLY.

IF YOUR OPPONENT IS SMART, HE'LL QUICKLY SEE THROUGH YOU!

ONE MORE TIME!

CLACK.

KEEP GOING! SLASH WITH BOTH HANDS FROM WHERE YOU STAND!

THE DISTANCE...

DISTANCE...

DISTANCE...

HM...

BUH.

WAAH!

OWW...

?

YEAH, NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME.

A- ARE YOU... ALRIGHT, SHIMADA-SAMA? ARE YOU HURT?

YOU CAN RETURN.

YOUR INDIVIDUAL TRAINING IS OVER, USHI-GOROU.

IT WAS PRETTY GOOD.

DON'T FORGET THAT CHARGE.

MY FEET GOT STUCK IN THE MUD, THAT'S ALL.

I, TOO LACK TRAIN-ING.

*WHAT A STRONG SWING...*

*TO THINK HE MADE SHIMADA-DONO DRAW HIS SWORD AND STILL MADE HIM LOSE HIS BALANCE...*

*WHY WOULD HE GO AS FAR AS RISKING HIS OWN LIFE?*

*SHIMADA-SAN USED HIS OWN BODY TO TEACH ME.*

IN OTHER WORDS, THEIR PRACTICE OUGHT TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

IN THIS GUIDELINE, ALL TEN COURSES WILL BE COM-PLETED IN TEN DAYS, AND THEN FIVE DAYS FOR PRACTICE AS A GROUP.

ORIGINALLY IT WOULD TAKE AT LEAST TWO MONTHS TO TRAIN THEM...

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, THEY ARE COMPLETE AMATEURS.

IT'S DECIDED THEN.

IT'S NOTHING MILORD...

SHIMADA-KUN?

WHAT'S THE MATTER,


CAN YOU SHORTEN IT DOWN TO SIX DAYS?
SORRY BUT
WHAT?
CUT IT DOWN TO TWO DAYS.
.....
THEY ALSO DON'T NEED FIVE DAYS FOR COORDI-NATED ACTION.
SCRAP THAT. THEY DON'T NEED IT.
YEAH.
ABOUT "DEFENSE AND COUNTER-ATTACK" ON THE SECOND HALF...
YES, WHY?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YES? WHAT IS IT?
KATSU-SAMA.
LET'S SEE...
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE WE CAN SCRAP...
KATSU-SAMA.

NO WORRIES THERE. I'M THINKING ABOUT NOT KEEPING THEM FOR THAT LONG.

I'M AFRAID IT WILL HURT THE SQUAD ENORMOUSLY...

IT'S RECKLESS TO SEND THEM INTO COMBAT WITHOUT ANY UNDERSTANDING OF DEFENSE...

IF I MAY SPEAK...

YES, GO AHEAD.

GETTING THE SQUAD READY FOR COMBAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

*PAT*

RIGHT NOW, OUR UTMOST PRIORITY IS

AS LONG AS THEY LAST THAT LONG, IT'S ALL GOOD.

THE IDEA IS TO SCARE SATSUMA SO THEY CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE.

GET IT DONE IN SIX DAYS.

ANYWAY, I'LL LEAVE THE MATTER IN YOUR HANDS.

YOU DON'T GET TO COMPLAIN ABOUT IT!

BUT KATSU-SAMA...

GET IT DONE.

SIX DAYS.

END OF THE TRAINING AND THE FOUNDING OF THE SQUAD.

YOUR TRAINING IS OVER.

YOU HAVE LASTED WELL.

IT WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO FIELD WORK.

IT WAS A PIECE OF CAKE.

HE SAID IT'S OVER.

WHAT IS IT, USHIGOROU?

.....

SHIMADA-SAMA, MAY I ASK SOMETHING?

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN THE ENEMY STRIKES BACK.

BESIDES, WE HAVE ONLY LEARNED HOW TO ATTACK.

BUT THE TRAINING WAS BARELY FOR SIX DAYS.

AT FIRST IT WAS SAID, THAT IT WOULD TAKE TWO WEEKS.

.....

.....

OH RIGHT ...

NO NEED TO WORRY.

OH YEAH...

HOW DO WE DODGE THE ENEMY'S BLADE?

YEAH... NOW THAT HE MENTIONED IT...

I'M CONVINCED, THAT YOUR SWORD SKILLS HAVE RIPENED TO BE PUT INTO REAL COMBAT.

THAT'S WHY YOU NO LONGER NEED TO LEARN PETTY TRICKS LIKE DEFENSE.

WITH YOUR FIERCE ATTACKS, THE ENEMY WILL BE PARALYZED AND UNABLE TO ATTACK YOU BACK.

THEREFORE WE'VE DECIDED, THAT YOU ALREADY FULFILLED THE REQUIREMENTS IN SIX DAYS.

TO OUR DELIGHT, YOU HAVE EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS BY A HUGE MARGIN AND DISPLAYED A TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL IN SUCH A SHORT TIME.

SOMETHING ABOUT THIS REALLY STINKS...

ARE THEY REALLY THAT DUMB?

I SEE!

DOES THAT MEAN THAT WE'RE PRETTY GOOD?

I SEE! WE KILL THEM IN A SINGLE BLOW!

YOKICHI!

AYE.

BEHOLD!

THIS IS THE BANNER OF OUR SQUAD!

HEREBY I ANNOUNCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ONE-STRIKE, ONE-KILL SQUAD!

DUNNO.

HOW DO YOU READ THAT?

ONE... WHAT DID HE SAY AGAIN?

AS OF TODAY, YOU'RE SOLDIERS NOW AND NOT PEASANTS.

UNDER THIS BANNER YOU WILL BE A UNIT AND RISK YOUR LIVES.

BE PROUD FOR SERVING AS SOLDIERS OF THE ONE-STRIKE, ONE-KILL SQUAD!

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WILL BE KILLING THE OUTLAWS OF SATSUMA.

THE SQUAD NAME, "WAN SUTORAIKU" MEANS KILLING YOUR OPPONENT IN ONE SLASH AND LET HIM DIE.

YOU'RE NOW A SAMURAI.

# CHAPTER 4 FIRST BATTLE



UNDER THIS BANNER YOU WILL BE A UNIT AND UNDER THIS BANNER YOU WILL PLEDGE YOUR LOYALTY.

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN.

BUT SAMURAIS.

AS LONG AS YOU'RE SOLDIERS OF THIS UNIT, YOU'RE NO LONGER PEASANTS,

WE'VE FINALLY BECOME SAMURAIS...

SAMURAI...

NOW WE DON'T HAVE TO PAY THAT MASSIVE TAX, EITHER.

ALRIGHT.

WITH THIS

I CAN FINAL-LY FILL MY BELLY.

GUUUH...

HEHE...

MY MOM WILL BE SURPRISED WHEN SHE HEARS THAT I'VE BECOME A SAMURAI.

I'LL EXPLAIN THE RULES OF THIS UNIT NOW.

IF YOU DISOBEY ORDERS, YOU WILL BE EXECUTED!

RULE!

STEALING WILL GET YOU EXE-CUTED!

CRAP... I GOT HUNGRY AFTER THINKING ABOUT FOOD.

RULE!

DESERTERS WILL BE EXECUTED!

RULE!

I'M BE-COMING LIKE A SAMURAI NOW...

YOU ARE ALLOWED TO TAKE YOUR ENEMY'S WEA-PON DURING COMBAT.

HOW-EVER!

REGARD-ING THE THIRD RULE...

YOU CAN PACK YOUR STUFF AND GO THEN.

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THESE RULES, SPEAK UP!

GOOD.

DON'T FORGET THESE RULES.

MM.

WADA-DONO.

IT'LL BE A SURPRISE ATTACK.

WE'LL CARRY OUT THE MISSION TOMORROW AT 10 PM.

THIS CAMPAIGN WILL BE YOUR FIRST MISSION.

THEY'LL BE PUNISHED!

OUR TARGETS ARE THE RONIN THAT ARE ON THEIR WAY BACK FROM RIOTING.

SINCE YOU'VE SPENT SUCH A LONG TIME HERE, I'LL ALLOW YOU TO LEAVE THE RESI-DENCE.

TOMORROW AT NOON I'LL TAKE ROLL CALL. UNTIL THEN YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

DISMISSED.

AL-RIGHT! ♡

HAHA...

HOWEVER, YOU AREN'T ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE INNER PART OF EDO.

I'M NOT JUST LOOKING LIKE ONE, I AM ONE.

YOU IDIOTS!

THAT COUNTRY BUMPKIN IS LOOKING LIKE A SAMURAI.

HEY, CHECK HIM OUT.

SAMURAI-SAMA.

IT LOOKS WONDER-FUL.

SHOW ME THE WAY WHEN I'M DONE WITH MY PREPARA-TIONS, OKAY?

EH?

TONIGHT I HAVE A RESERVA-TION AT A BROTHEL CALLED IMURAYA.

IT'S SHIMADA-SAMA AND WADA-SAMA'S TREAT.

HAVE AS MUCH FUN AS YOU WANT.

I'M GETTING LAID TONIGHT!

YEAH!

WE'RE HEADED TO THE BROTHEL.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HEY, USHI!

HM?

I'M NOT IN THAT MOOD.

WHY DO I HAVE TO GO TO THE BROTHEL, ANYWAY?

I CAN'T GO AND SCREW AROUND.

WHA..

ARE YOU FIGHTING AGAIN?

I MIGHT DIE TO-MORROW

I ALSO THINK THAT YOU SHOULD GO, USHI-GOROU-SAN.

WHAT DID YOU SAY!? WANNA FIGHT, MIDGET!?

YOU NEVER USE YOUR OWN BRAIN, DO YOU!?

TSK!

"EVERYONE IS DOING IT" AGAIN?

I PREFER FOOD OVER WOMEN, THOUGH.

EVERYONE ELSE IS GOING TOO, USHI!

SHUT UP!

SEE! IT'S AS I TOLD YOU!

IT'S BETTER IF YOU GO.

TSK!

IT'S CONSIDERED EXTREMELY IMPOLITE TO REFUSE THE INVITATION FROM YOUR HIGHER UP IN SOCIETY WITHOUT A REASON.

カン
チャ

カン
チャ

SFX all over page. Smoker

クスクス

FIELD CLOTHES ARE THE BEST AFTER ALL.

I JUST CAN'T GET USED TO WEARING A HAKAMA...

I'M WALKING PROUDLY LIKE A SAMURAI.

WHAT?!

DO SOME-THING ABOUT THE WAY YOU WALK! YOU LOOK LIKE A COM-PLETE FOOL.

THE PEASANTS ARE BOWING TO US.

LOOK.

Y-YEAH. WE'RE SAMURAIS.

HAHA...

O-OF COURSE THEY WILL. WE'RE SAMURAIS, AREN'T WE?

!

YEAH, IT'S PRETTY COOL.

BEING A SAMURAI IS A PRETTY COOL THING, AFTER ALL.

.....

THEY'RE STILL BOWING.

WOW!

D-DON'T ASK ME!

W-WHAT DO WE DO NOW? THERE ARE TWO SAMURAIS COMING THIS WAY.

THEY'RE THE REAL DEAL!

HEY! USHI!

DAMN... ACTING ALL COOL AND MIGHTY...

AREN'T WE THE REAL DEAL AS WELL?

DON'T SHIT YOUR PANTS, YOU COWARD!

BRING IT ON!

VERY WELL THEN!

HEY, ICHI...



SFX: Hahahaha

はーはは

はは

AH! LOOK, ICHI-DONO! IT'S A SHOOTING STAR!

OH NO! QUICK, WE HAVE TO MAKE A WISH!

うぶぶぶ

WHO ARE THEY?

I THINK THEY'RE DRUNK.

WHA.

STOP HIDING BEHIND ME!

THAT WAS SO RECK-LESS...

LET'S GO.

SHIMADA-SAMA TOLD US THAT YOUR GROUP WOULD BE COMING.

THANK YOU FOR WAITING.

IS IT...?

ISN'T THAT OBVI-OUS?

PLEASE, COME INSIDE.

I'LL TAKE YOUR SWORDS.

WHAT? WE CAN'T BRING OUR SWORDS IN?

I DON'T CARE ABOUT WOMEN. I WANT FOOD!

ALRIGHT.

I'LL GO TO MY ROOM FIRST. GO HAVE FUN WITH THE GIRLS.

I HOPE THERE ARE SOME YOUNG CUTIES... THE OLD ONES CHATTER TOO MUCH.

OF COURSE.

I'LL CALL THE LADIES RIGHT AWAY. PLEASE HAVE SOME SAKE IN THE SALON...

WHY DID HE GO TO HIS ROOM ALONE ALREADY?

USHI IS REALLY ANNOYING ME.

WHAT IF WE ALL DIE, THOUGH?

YOU'VE A POINT. WE SHOULD DECIDE ON THAT NOW.

IF I DIE, WOULD ANY-ONE BRING MY MONEY BACK HOME?

BUT IT'S TRUE. WE MIGHT EVEN DIE TOMORROW. IS IT OKAY FOR US TO FOOL AROUND?

HOW CAN YOU BE A SAMURAI IF YOU'RE ALREADY SHITTING YOUR PANTS?

LISTEN TO ME! WE AREN'T GOING TO DIE! WE'RE GOING TO KILL!

WHY ARE YOU GUYS WORRYING ABOUT THAT?

THERE LADIES, COME INSIDE.

WHA...

YOU'RE PREACHING TO US ABOUT COWARDICE, BUT WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO GOT COLD FEET JUST BECAUSE THOSE GUYS GLANCED AT YOU, ICHI?




SHOW YOUR FACES TO OUR HONORABLE GUESTS.
RAISE YOUR HEADS.





ANOTHER POT OF RICE PLEASE!

T-THEY ARE...

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

WE'VE GATHERED THE UGLIEST WOMEN FROM THE COUNTRY-SIDE HERE.

THIS IS THE BROTHEL FOR COUNTRY SAMURAIS, IMURAYA.

I ACTUALLY DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE I SHOULD PICK.

H-HEY... THEY ARE ALL PRETTY YOUNG GIRLS...

SHIMADA-SAMA HAS A GOOD TASTE WHEN IT COMES TO WOMEN.

YOU CAN FUCK UNTIL SUNRISE!

WHAT?!

MAKE YOUR CHOICE! FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE!

I'LL GO WITH HER!

I TAKE THIS ONE!

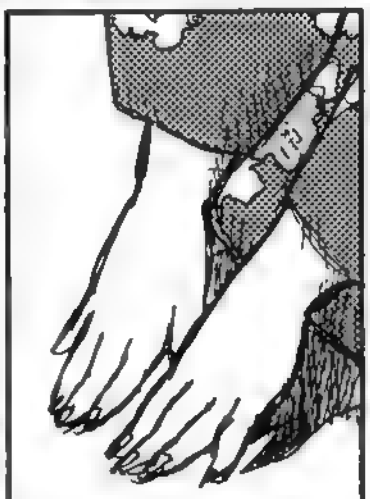
THEY'RE SAVAGES!


HMPH.


CLOSE


EXCUSE ME.


ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS POUR ME SAKE.
I DON'T CARE.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS...



UNDER-
STOOD.

OKAY.

CHIYO...

NOBODY!

WHO IS
CHIYO?

MY NAME
IS SONO...

NO...

WHAT?

WH...

SAMURAI-SAMA.

THE HANDS OF A PEASANT.

THIS IS... THE HAND OF SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN WORK-ING ON THE FIELD SINCE THEIR CHILD-HOOD.

REALLY A SAMURAI?

ARE YOU

WHAT ABOUT MY HAND?

YOUR HAND...

IT EVEN SMELLS OF THE SOIL

I-I'M A SAMURAI! I AIN'T NO PEASANT!

IT REALLY BRINGS BACK MEMORIES...

THE SMELL OF MY MOTHER AND FATHER...

!

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT!

BUT TODAY WE HAVE A LARGE GROUP THAT MADE A RESER-VATION...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU CAN'T ACCEPT US?

AREN'T YOU AWARE THAT WE HAVE WALKED ALL THE WAY HERE? HOW CAN YOU TURN US AWAY?

LET'S FORGET ABOUT THIS PLACE, IMUDA-DONO.

SOMETHING FEELS OFF WHEN I DON'T FUCK SONO ONCE EVERY TEN DAYS.

I-I... I'M TER-RIBLY SORRY.

SATSUMA...

IT'S IMUDA-SAMA, A SAMURAI FROM SAT-SUMA.

HE WAS TALKING ABOUT YOU.

HE'S VERY VIOLENT.

HE BUYS ME QUITE FREQUENT-LY...

LET'S HOPE YOUR PLACE WON'T BE TARGETED BY CRIMINALS.

P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME...

YOU BETTER BE ON YOUR TOES, OLD MAN.

TSK!

LET'S GO TO ANOTHER PLACE.

HM?

!

IS SOME-THING WRONG?

.....

IMUDA-DONO?

SAMURAI-SAMA?

DUCKING HIS HEAD DOWN.

JUST ONE COWARD

IT'S NOTHING.

HMPH.

OH YEAH... IT'S THE SAME AS THAT MAN...

THAT BASTARD'S EYES... HE'S NOT NORMAL...

WHAT'S WRONG, SAMURAI-SAMA?

THE SAME EYES...











FLICKER

WADA-SAMA.

MM.

I CAN SEE. AND USE MY ALIAS - SHIMA.

W- WE'RE HERE, SHIMADA-SAMA.

YOU CAN'T SEE THEM FROM HERE, BUT UP THE ROAD, WADA'S UNIT IS WAITING IN AMBUSH.

BEFORE THEY ARRIVE, LET'S GO OVER THE PLAN ONE LAST TIME.

CUT THEM DOWN!

THOSE WHO DON'T REPLY ARE THE ENEMY.

BE CARE-FUL NOT TO HURT YOUR COM-RADE.

WHEN YOU CAN'T DISCERN BETWEEN FRIEND OR FOE, CALL THE ALIAS-ES.

GO FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T DRAWN THEIR SWORDS. IN OTHER WORDS, THOSE WHO HAVE THEIR BACKS TURNED. THIS ISN'T COWARDICE, BUT WHAT WE CALL A SURPRISE ATTACK.

GOT IT?

WHEN THE ENEMY PULLS OUT THEIR SWORDS, I'LL GIVE THE SIGNAL BEFORE THEY RETALIATE. WHEN YOU SEE THE SIGNAL, YOU WILL RETREAT QUICKLY.

SHIMA

WA

SATSUMA

THIS IS A PINCER ATTACK. THEY'VE GOT NO-WHERE TO RUN. I'VE DRAWN A LOT TO DECIDE WHO GOES FIRST. IT'S YOU, SEN.

WE'LL ATTACK THEM FROM BEHIND, WHILE WADA'S UNIT ATTACKS THEM FROM THE FRONT.

WE'LL ATTACK THEM WHEN THEY LEAVE THE MANSION.

IT'S... IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE FOR A PEASANT LIKE ME.

I-I... I CAN'T DO IT...

SHIMA... SAMA...

WHAT'S WRONG, SEN?

B-BUT... I...

THE IMPORTANT THING IS NOT TO FALTER TO YOUR FEAR.

MUSTER UP YOUR COURAGE AND FACE IT HEAD ON!

THAT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.

SEN... ARE YOU AFRAID?

YOUR FEAR WILL RUB OFF ONTO THE OTHERS!

STOP IT, ICHI...

YOU HAVE COME THIS FAR. YOU CAN'T GET COLD FEET NOW, SENTA!

SENTA!

IT'S AL-RIGHT!

CLING

AND WHEN THEY DO, WE'LL RETREAT IMMEDIATELY!

WE'RE GOING FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T DRAWN THEIR SWORDS! THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN LOSE!

USHI...

IF YOU GET TERRIFIED, JUST HIDE BEHIND ME.

.....

DON'T WORRY! I'LL PROTECT YOU!

BE THE FIRST TO ATTACK?

WOULD YOU LET ME

SHIMA-SAMA...

WHA...

AYE.

YOUR ATTACK WILL BE THE SIGNAL.

I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU, USHI.

VERY WELL.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, USHI?!

I'M GOING TO BE THE FIRST ONE TO SLAY THEM!

DID YOU HEAR THAT?

WE'RE GOING TO MASSACRE THE SAMURAIS OF SATSUMA!

ALRIGHT!

I'M NOT GONNA LOSE TO YOU!

IF YOU'RE PISSED OFF, YOU GUYS BETTER FOLLOW ME!

DON'T FORGET, ONE STRIKE!

DON'T FORGET THAT YOU'RE THE ONE-STRIKE, ONE-KILL SQUAD!

GET IN POSITION!

ALRIGHT! THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

ONE STRIKE!

HAHAHA.

THE SAKE REALLY TASTES BETTER AFTER A GOOD WORKOUT.

WE SURE WENT ALL OUT TONIGHT.

YOU'LL FEEL SOME RELIEF AFTER BANGING THOSE WOMEN.

UNLIKE YOSHIWARA, THE WOMEN THERE ARE FINER AND KNOW THEIR PLACES.

AFTER WE RETURN TO THE DAIMYO'S SPARE RESIDENCE, WE'LL HEAD TO IMURAYA.

LOWER YOUR HEAD MORE.

USHI,

はは

はは

TH...

THEY'RE HERE.

# CHAPTER 5 BLOOD IN THE WIND

ARE WE GOING TO TAKE THEM ALL JUST AS NINE?

THERE ARE 30... NO, 40.

カチャ カチャ カチャ

AYE!

GO, USHI!

OKAY, NOW IS THE TIME.

TSK!

HAHII!

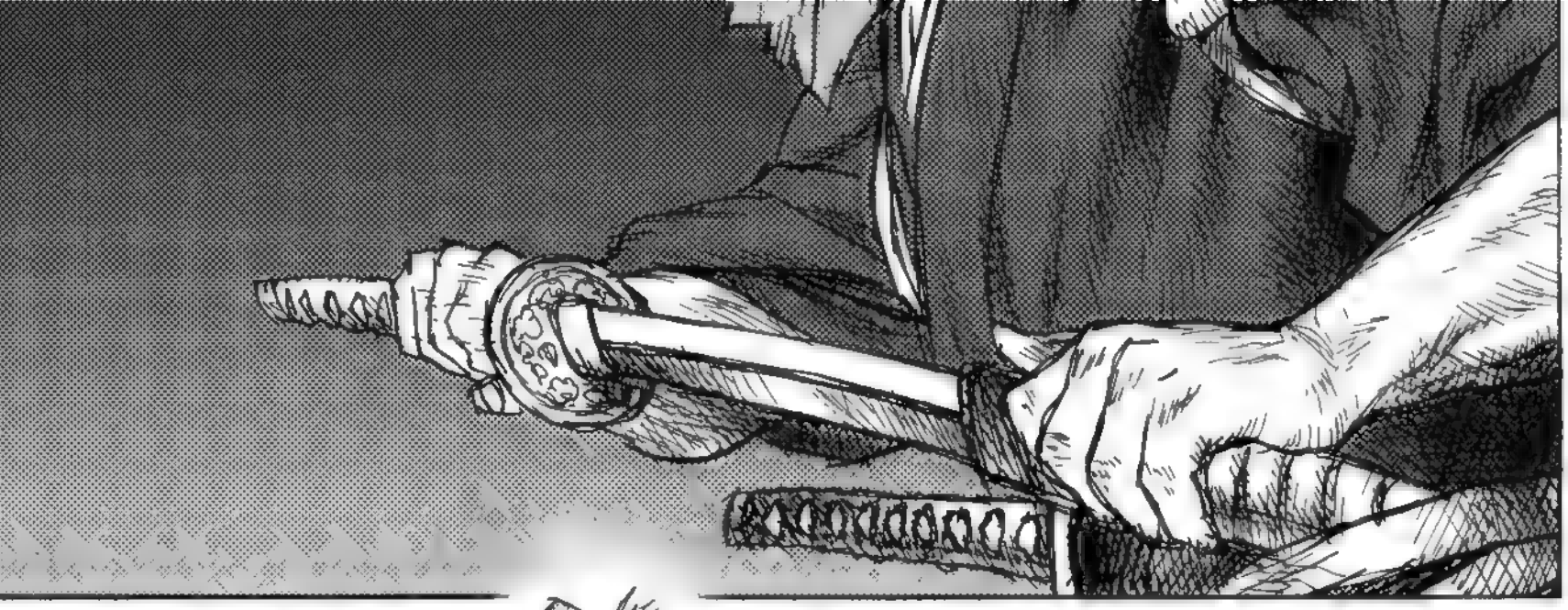
ガタ ガタ ガタ ガタ

UH...

DON'T FORGET WHAT I TAUGHT YOU ABOUT DISTANCE.

TARGET THE ONE ON THE END.

BRO...






HII!
I'M NEXT!


NEXT!


I'M NUMBER TWO!
ALRIGHT, FOLLOW USHI!

PANT

PANT

PANT

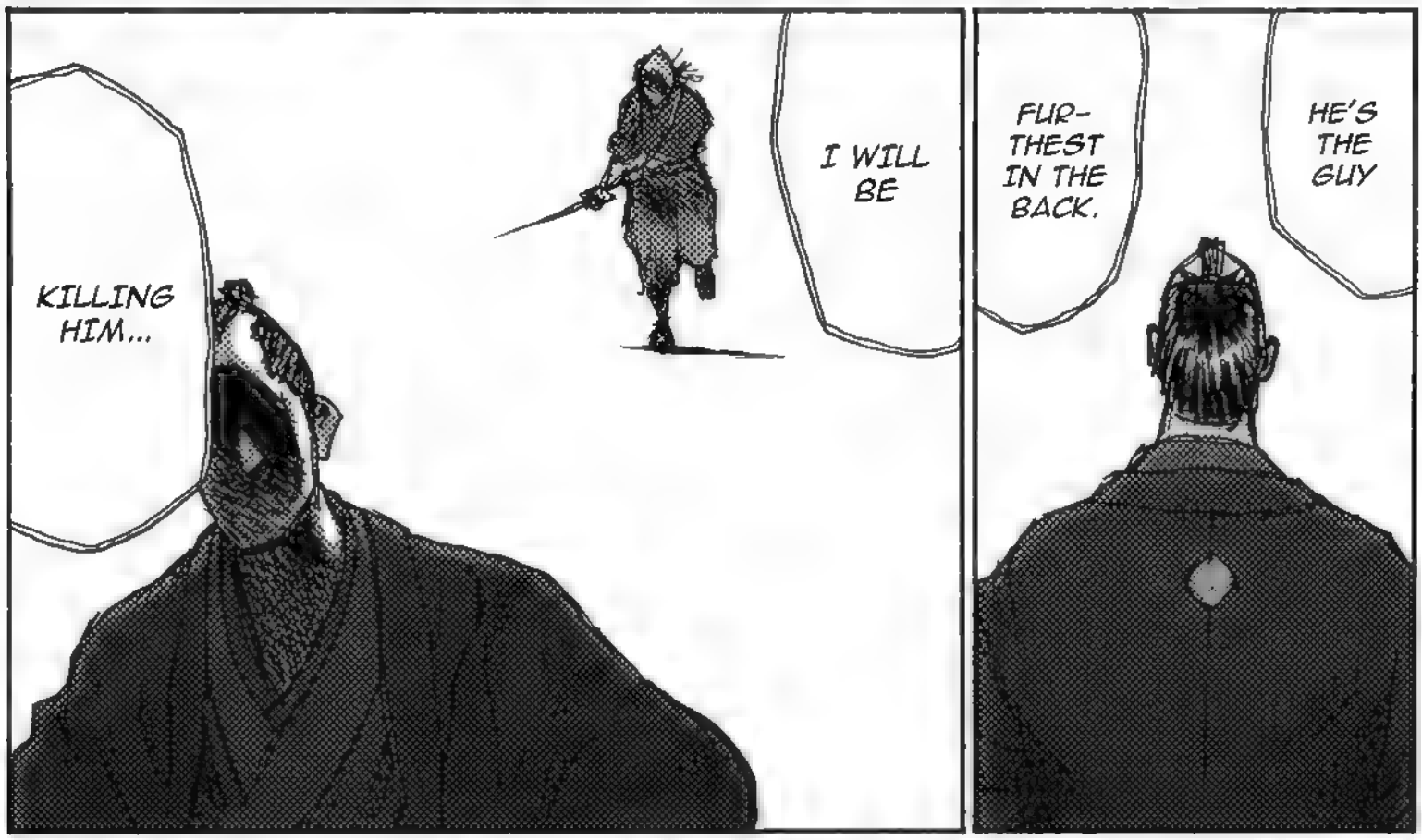
PANT

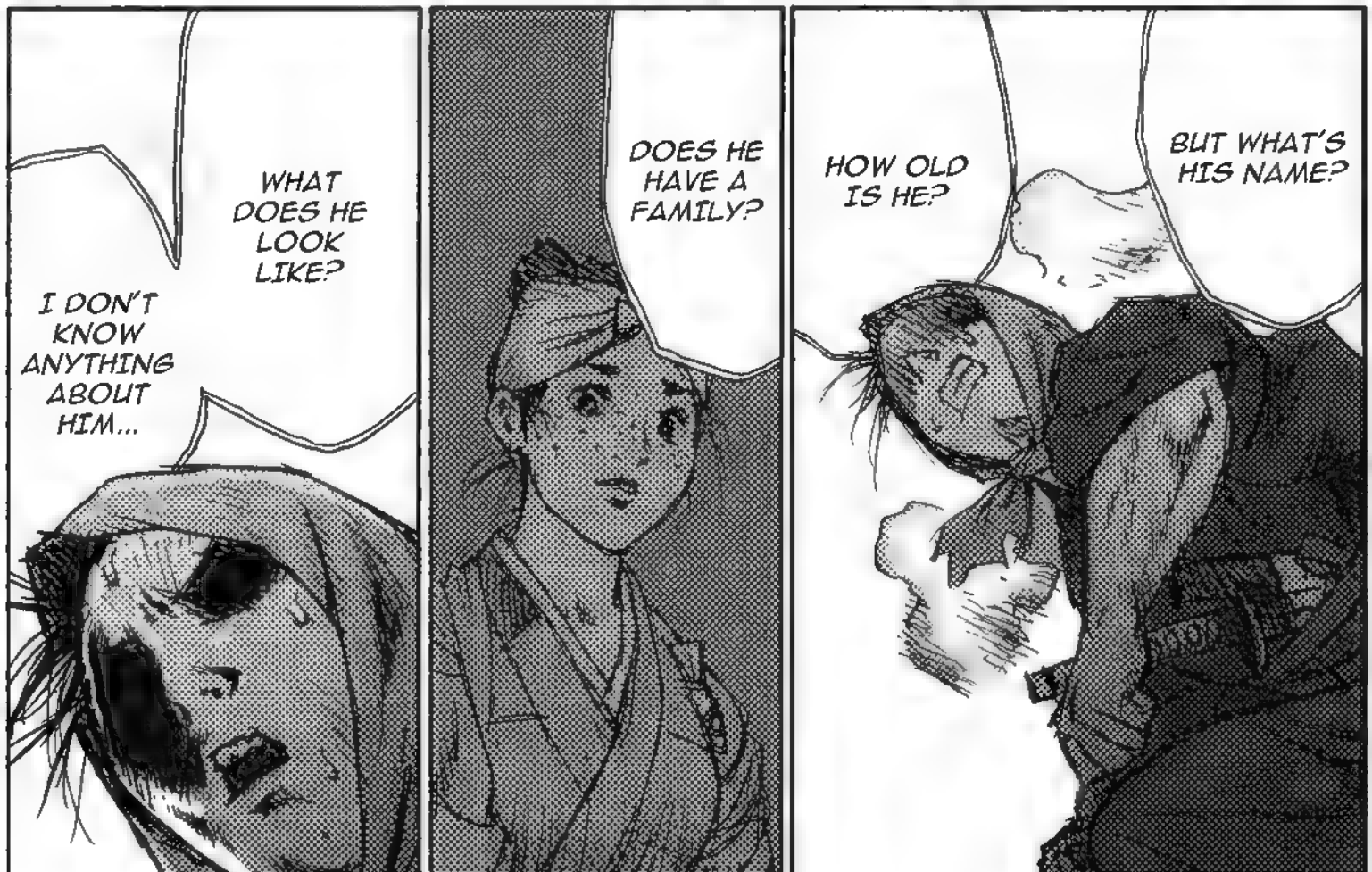
PANT

PANT

PANT




KILLING HIM...
I WILL BE
FUR-THEST IN THE BACK.
HE'S THE GUY


I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM...
WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE?
DOES HE HAVE A FAMILY?
HOW OLD IS HE?
BUT WHAT'S HIS NAME?

NO...

WRONG!

I GOT IT ALL MEMORIZED.

I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM.

NOT EVEN HUMAN!

HE'S THE ENEMY!

I'M ABOUT TO KILL HIM.

HE IS WHAT I HATE MOST... A SAMU-RAI.

THAT'S WHY, HE DOESN'T HAVE A NAME OR A FAMILY.

HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE AN AGE.

HE DOESN'T HAVE ONE!

AND THAT'S WHY HE DOESN'T HAVE A FACE, EITHER!

SHIT!

DON'T LOOK AT ME!






HM?


UH!

HE'S GOING TO STRIKE BA...

I MISSED THE DIS-TANCE AGAIN.

SHIT!

HII!

THRUST!

MAYBE SOMEONE GOT DRUNK ALREADY?

WHAT WAS THAT STRANGE VOICE?

はは

GA...

GUAH!

HEY! YOU ARE...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

OWW!

ズバッ

NUUH!

!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?

HII!

AH...

SORRY...

WA AH!

PUKE

ハッ

WHA...

THAT'S...

THE ENEMY IS BEHIND US!

HOW MANY OF THEM?

THE ENEMY'S ATTACKING US.

I DON'T KN-

DAMN YOU!

UHYAA!

THEY'LL KILL YOU!

DON'T FACE THE ENEMY!

GUUH!

THE ENEMY IS AHEAD OF US, TOO!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

UWAAH!

DAMN! MY SWORD...

HIT

HOLD ON!

HAHIII!

TL/N - A GAME WHERE PLAYERS ARE BACK TO BACK TO EACH OTHER AND TRY TO PUSH THE OPPONENT OUT OF THE CIRCLE

O-OKAY!

YONE! OSHIKURA MANJUU!

RESTRICT THEIR MOVEMENT!

PUSH! PUSH!

KO KO KO KO

WHEN IT COMES TO PUSHING, I WON'T LOSE!


HIII!
HELP...
GUAAH!
CRUSH THEM!
PIN THEM TO THE WALL!

HII...

PLEASE, WAIT!

I'M ONLY A HIRED MERCE-NARY...

I'VE NO CONNEC-TION TO SAT-SUMA...

PANT

PANT

おお

おお

DIE, YOU FUCKING SAMURAI!

IT HURTS! OWWW!

WAA AH!

WAAH!

GUHOOO!

HYAHHH!

JUST MOVE, YOU FOOL!

WE CAN'T MOVE FREELY.

I'M RUN-NING...

HAAH!

I'M OUT!

I DIDN'T HEAR ANY-THING ABOUT FIGHTING!

WASN'T THIS A SIMPLE ROBBERY?

NO

YOU DAMN COWARDS!

VII

IX

OUTTA MY WAY!

WE'LL OPEN A PATH. IMURA-DONO, HURRY!

SO FAR SO GOOD.

ALRIGHT, THIS IS ENOUGH.

SFX: Whistle

IT'S THE SIGNAL TO RETREAT!

CHIYO!

!

SHUT UP!

ICHI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE'RE GET-TING OUT.

I'M GONNA KILL SOME MORE!

O-
OKAY.

COME!

YONE, IT'S ENOUGH.

TSK!

IDIOT!
IF YOU DIS-
OBEY ORDERS,
YOU'LL BE
KILLED.

HURRY UP!

SEN, WE'RE
RETREATING.

WHA...

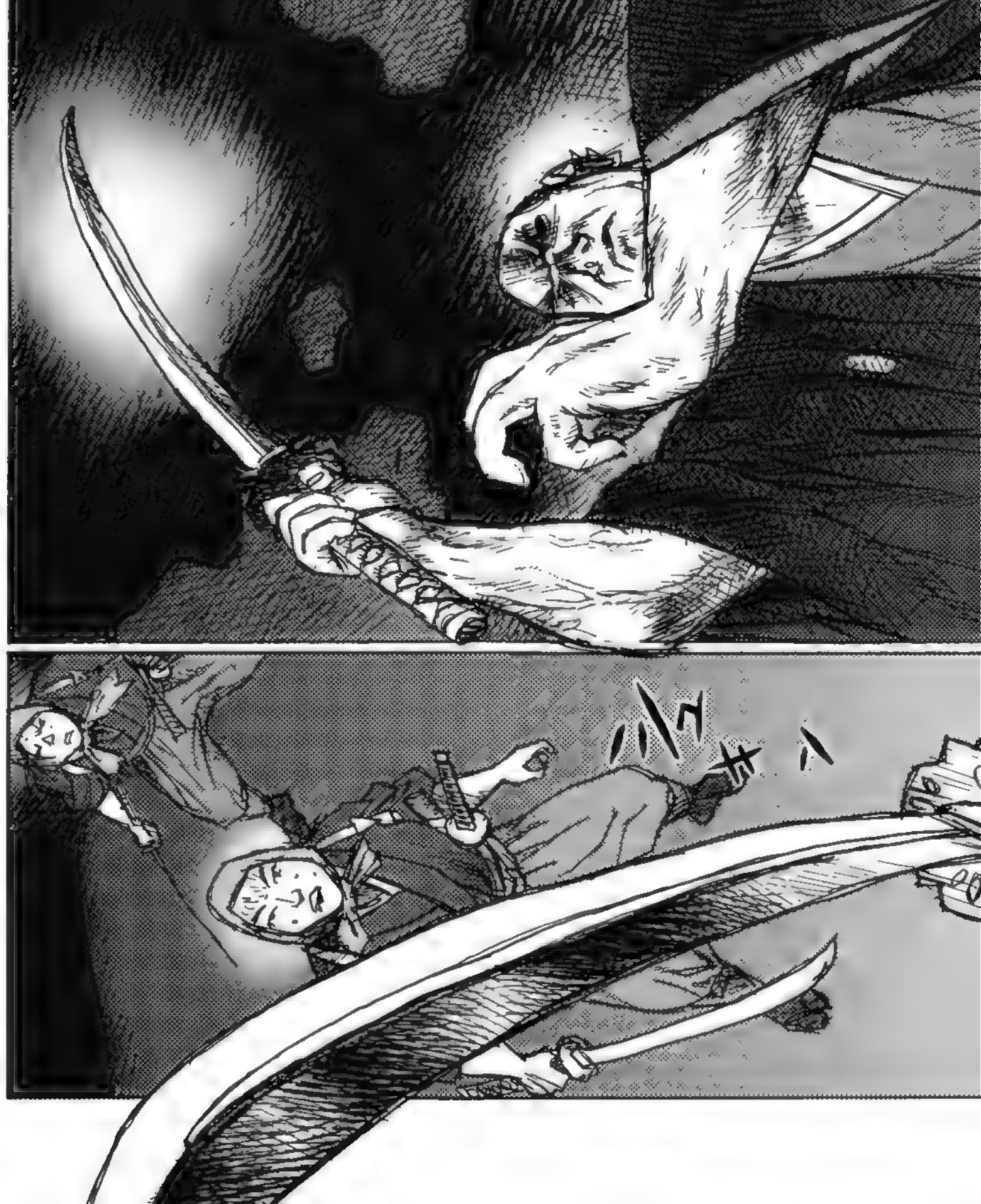
!

ARE YOU THE GUYS

WHO DID THIS!?

HE IS...





WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

W-WHAT...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

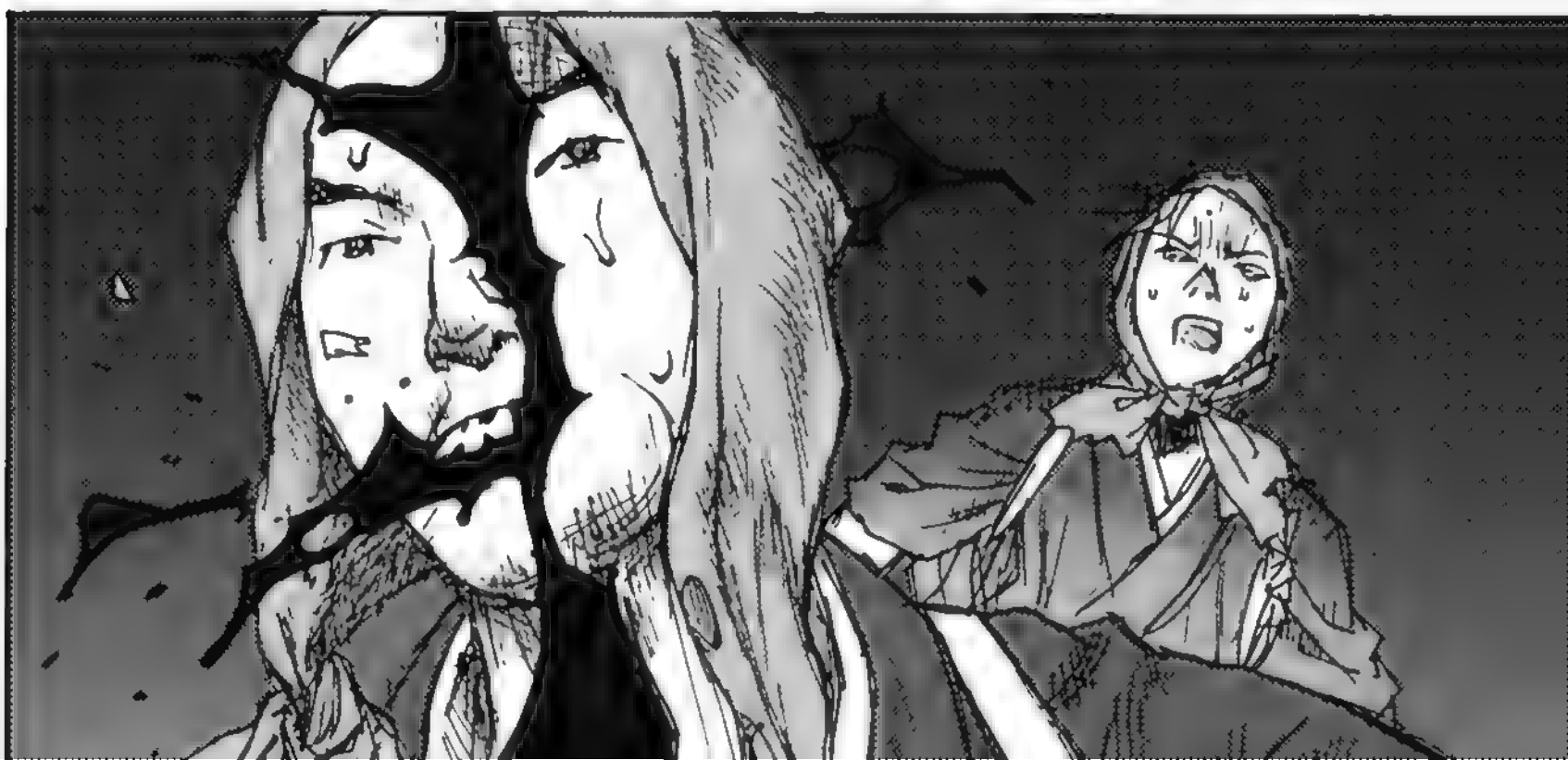
SEN!

ARE YOU LISTENING?!

HURRY AND RUN!

SEN!



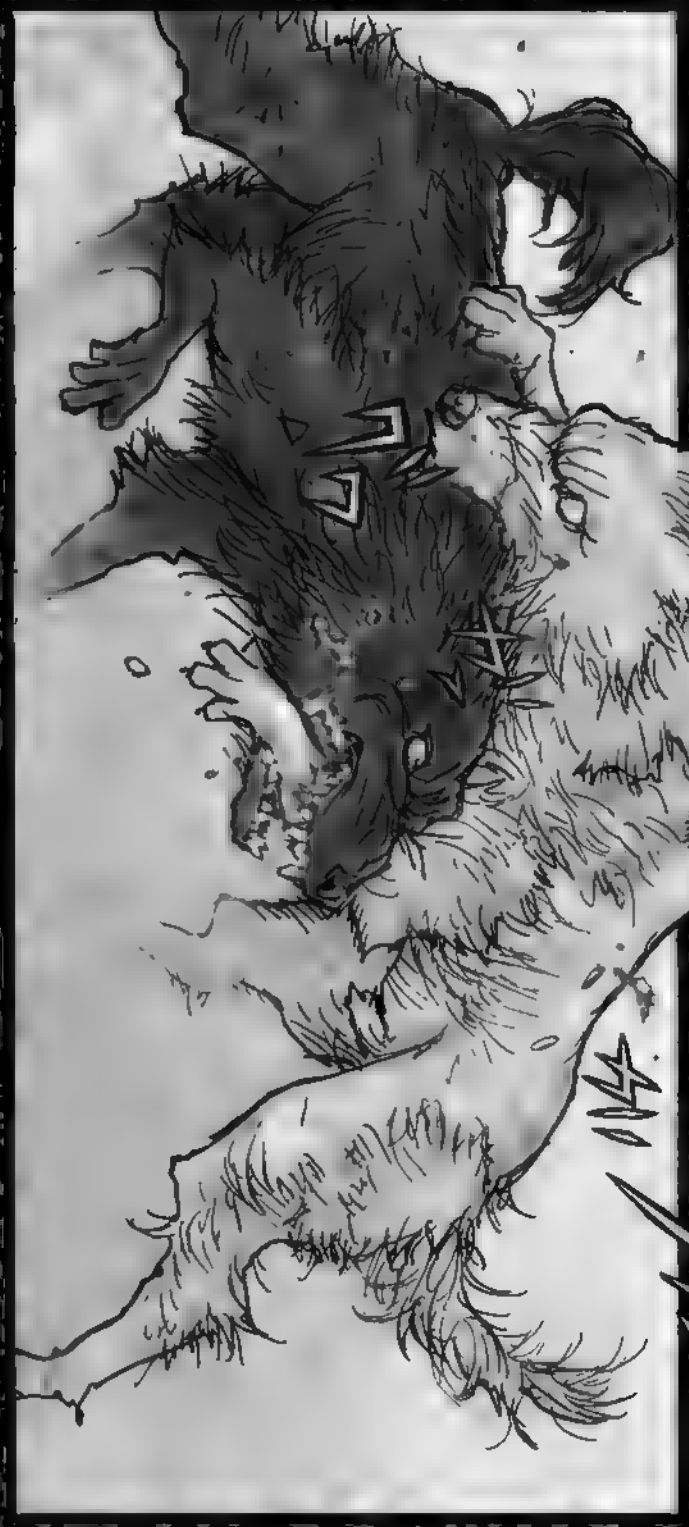


ビチ
ビチ
ビチ
ズバ
HIII...
THE NEXT IN LINE!
YOU ARE
I CAN'T ESCAPE.
SHIT, HE PULLED OUT HIS SWORD.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
SAY YOUR PRAYERS!
ズバ
チャ


CHAPTER 5
END

THIS IS A ONE-SHOT, WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED IN MONTHLY COMIC RAN BEFORE MATSUMOTO JIROU'S "ICHIGEKI" GOT SERIALIZED, IT IS INCLUDED IN THIS VOLUME AS A SPECIAL CHAPTER.





YOU ARE NOT ANY BETTER THAN AN ANIMAL, ROKUROU.

WOULD YOU SWING YOUR SWORD JUST TO GET THIS RICE BALL?

IF I LOSE EVEN MORE WEIGHT, WADA-SAN.

I TOO DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO...

WE HELP PEOPLE WITH FUND-RAISING.

THEN FIND A JOB FOR YOUR-SELF.

OUR JOB IS TO PROTECT THEIR MONEY FROM THE VILLAINS.

MY SWORD IS USE-LESS.

WHAT ELSE WOULD I SWING IT FOR?

ALL THEY DO IS TRICK AND CORRUPT PEOPLE.

THAT'S ALL TALK, THOUGH.

BUT AN ANIMAL DOESN'T HAVE THE WILL FOR THAT.

THEY TALK ABOUT NOBLE INTEN-TIONS SUCH AS REBUILD-ING THE COUN-TRY,



EXTRA STORY:

# "THE LIFE OF A DOG"




YES, FATHER.
KIMIE, BRING THE STETHO-SCOPE.
I KNOW IT'S A BIT COLD, BUT CAN YOU TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES?
YOUR PULSE IS A BIT WEAK.
PLEASE COUGH.

I'VE CALLED YOU SINCE MY MOTHER'S CONDITION DETERIO-RATED,

BUT NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY.

WHAT DO YOU WANT IN RETURN UNTIL I GET THE MONEY?

I'LL PAY FOR YOUR FEE ANOTHER TIME, I SWEAR.

IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO GIVE UP YOUR SWORD?

RONIN OR NOT, YOU'RE STILL A WARRIOR, AFTER ALL.

BUT...

IT'S NOT WORTH MUCH, BUT PLEASE ACCEPT THIS LONG SWORD.

HOLD ON, ROKU-ROU-SAN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I'M NOT PLANNING TO TAKE MONEY FROM THE POOR.

DESPITE WHAT YOU THINK, A DOCTOR ISN'T AN IMPORTANT PERSON.

WHAT?

I NEED NO MONEY.

THAT'S THE INTENTION OF THIS DOCTOR.

HO, HO, HO!

IT'S MY DREAM TO CREATE SUCH AN INSTITUTION IN THIS COUNTRY.

APPARENTLY THERE ARE BIG INSTITUTIONS IN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES WHERE MANY DOCTORS DO THEIR JOB.

A DOCTOR'S DUTY IS TO HELP AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TO GET ON WITH THEIR LIVES.

*Bows*

I'M SURE YOU WILL NEED IT.

SWING YOUR BLADE FOR THAT PURPOSE.

YOU'RE DONE, IF YOU GO ASTRAY.

YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PATH TO WALK.

THAT'S A QUACK DOCTOR.

HE DIDN'T EVEN TAKE MONEY FOR IN-SPECTING ME.

THAT DOCTOR STUDIED WESTERN MEDICINE IN YOKO-HAMA.

AND HE USES SOME WEIRD TOOLS. ON TOP OF THAT, HIS MEDICINE TASTES BITTER.

HE GOES AROUND TOUCHING PEOPLE...

YOU AREN'T IN A POSI-TION TO BE PICKY.

EVEN THAT IS BETTER THAN MAKING PAPER UM-BRELLAS.

I KNOW, I KNOW.

IT'S A SIMPLE DAILY LABOR WORK.

KINDA. IT'S AT THE SATSU-MA RES-IDENCE.

MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, ROKU-ROU,

DID YOU FIND A JOB?

APPARENTLY THEY ARE EMPLOYING THUGS THAT RUN RAMPANT IN THE CITY AND TERRORIZE THE PEOPLE.

BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY GOOD RUMORS ABOUT THE SATSUMA CLAN.

YOU HAVE TO TAKE ANY JOB.

ON TOP OF YOUR FATHER'S DEBT, THERE'S THE RENT THAT WE HAVEN'T PAID YET.

.....

IT'S JUST THAT THEIR WAYS DON'T SIT WELL WITH ME.

I'M SURE THEY HAVE THEIR INTENTIONS FOR DOING THAT.

EXACTLY BECAUSE YOU'RE DAWDLING LIKE THAT.

THE OTHERS ARE LEAVING YOU BEHIND,

WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT, ROKUROU?

YES, MOTHER?

LISTEN TO ME, ROKUROU.

AND WHAT GOAL IS THAT?

HUH?

YOU CANNOT LOSE SIGHT OF YOUR GOAL.

EXACTLY BECAUSE YOU'RE A WARRIOR,

I WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO ENTER NIRVANA.

IF I CAN'T MAKE A REAL MAN OUT OF YOU BEFORE I GIVE MY LAST BREATH,

I KNOW THAT MY DAYS ARE NUMBERED, ROKUROU.

I TOLD YOU THAT A SAMURAI'S DESIRE IS TO SERVE HIS MASTER WITH HIS LIFE.

YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THAT FOR AGES NOW.

THERE'S NO WAY THAT A LONE RONIN WITH NO CONNEC-TIONS COULD SERVE AS A SAMURAI.

MOTHER DOESN'T UNDER-STAND HOW THE WORLD WORKS.

YOU HAVE TO BECOME A SERVING SAMU-RAI, EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO TAKE THIS JOB!

EVEN AFTER MY DEATH, I WANT YOU TO WALK A RIGHTEOUS PATH AS A HUMAN.

TS/N [MJ an flashbacks intensify]

SATSUMA DOMAIN,
SHIBA RESIDENCE

I KNEW THAT I HAD A GOOD EYE WHEN IT COMES TO PICKING A MAN WITH DETERMINATION.

GLAD YOU MADE IT HERE, ROKUROU.

I-IT'S COOKED WHITE RICE...

SAGARA-SAMA WILL SOON GIVE HIS ORDERS.

OKAY...

ANYWAY, EAT SOME-THING.

NO, IT'S RATHER THAT MY MOTHER WAS NAG-GING ME.

THERE ARE A LOT OF CRUDE GUYS GATHERED HERE.

LOOKS LIKE...

I KNOW HOW SKILLED YOU ARE WITH THE SWORD, SINCE I FOUGHT YOU IN THE DOJO.

BUT YOU'RE DIFFER-ENT.

THEY ONLY LOOK SCARY.

THIS IS YOUR BEST CHANCE TO BECOME A REAL SAMURAI.

THE CIRCUM-STANCES HAVE CHANGED, ROKUROU. YOUR SKILLS ARE NEEDED IN THESE TIMES.

WILL WE BE OKAY?

I-IT'S LIKE WE'RE OUT OF PLACE.

NO, I DON'T QUITE THINK SO...

YOU EVEN NEED TO USE UNDERHANDED TRICKS, IF IT MEANS WINNING.

IN ORDER TO WIN, YOU DON'T NEED TO DWELL ON POSTURE OR WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED IN THE DOJO.

OKAY...

PEOPLE WHO ONLY TALK ABOUT IDEALS ARE AS USELESS AS SHIT.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE AN EXCUSE. THAT'S FINE, THOUGH. THERE'S NO NEED TO BE HUMBLE.

THE WAY I LEARNED WAS TO JUMP ON YOUR OPPONENT'S CHEST, AND GO INTO CLOSE COMBAT...

W-WADA-SAN!

YOU'RE GETTING THE IDEA ABOUT HOW TO USE YOUR SWORD, RIGHT, ROKUROU?

DEPENDING ON YOUR PERFORMANCE, I CAN PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR YOU.

ALRIGHT, ROKUROU. WON'T YOU OFFICIALLY JOIN US THEN?

UH-OH. IT'S ABOUT TIME.

I... I WILL FOLLOW YOU ALL THE WAY!

THIS IS THE DIVINE WILL TO REBUILD THIS LAND! I'VE HIGH EXPECTA-TIONS OF YOU!

WE'VE THE GUTS! WE'VE THE RIGHT!

I'LL BUY A WHORE.

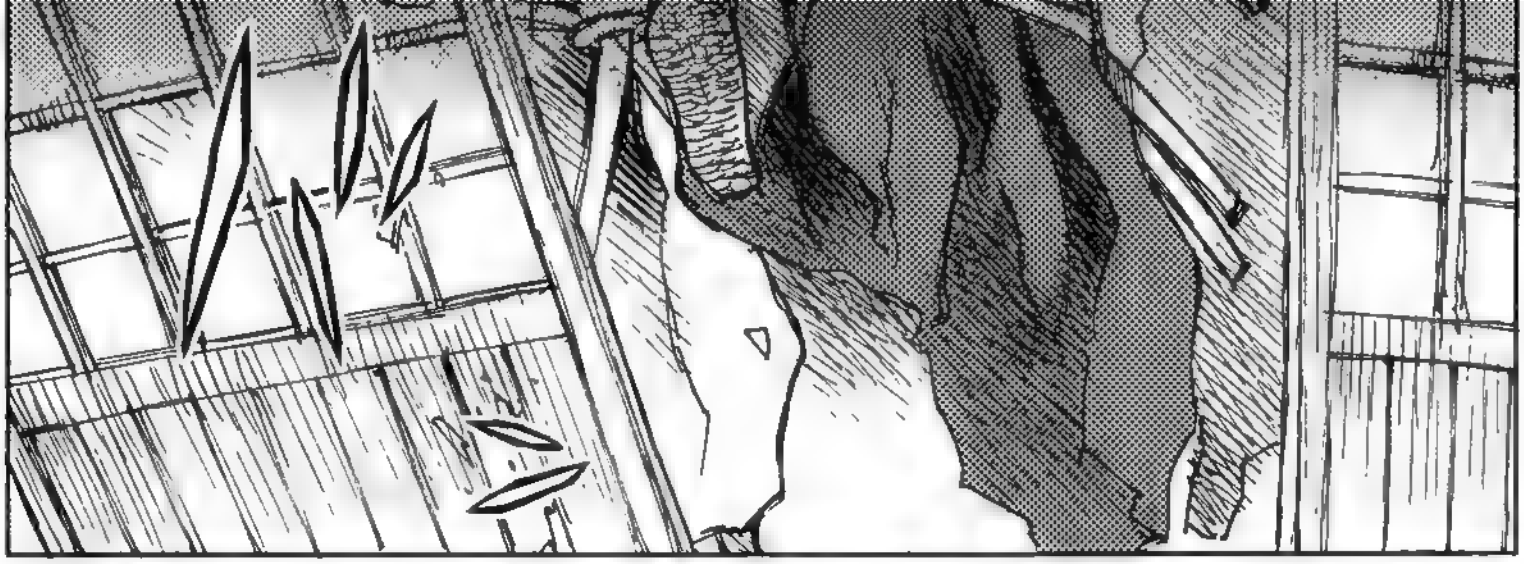
I'M GETTING PSYCHED!

I CAN DRINK SAKE WITH THIS MONEY!

BY THE WAY, YOUR PAY FOR THE DAY IS 50 MON!

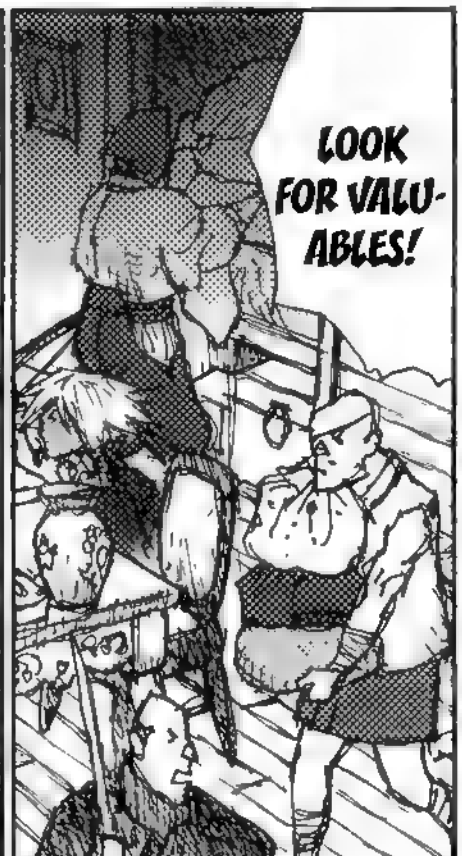
IN THE STREETS OF EDO.

AND THUS, THE VIOLENT "FUND RAISING" BY THE ANIMALS THAT WERE LET LOOSE BEGAN.




HIII!
KEEP QUIET!
THIS IS A HEIST!


YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY ABOUT YOUR CONTRIBUTION!
WE'RE COLLECTING YOUR MONEY TO REBUILD OUR LAND!


LOOK FOR VALU-ABLES!

SO THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL FUND RAISING...

DO THEY SERIOUSLY EXPECT THEM TO REFUSE IN THIS SITU-ATION?

P-PLEASE SPARE MY LIFE!

YOU HAVE NO OBJEC-TION, DO YOU?

!

ALRIGHT, THIS ONE SHOULD DO.

KYAAH!

HURRY UP! WE'VE SIX MORE BUILDINGS TO VISIT!

ALRIGHT, WE'RE MOVING ON!

HII!

UGH!

D-DEAR!

OH, WELL...

THEY ARE KILLING PASSERSBY LEFT AND RIGHT!

YOU HAVE TO STOP THEM!

HM?

W-WHOA! WADA-SAN! WADA-SAN!

WHAT WILL YOU DO, IF WE FALL BEHIND SCHEDULE?!

NO... THAT WASN'T MY POINT...

STOP WASTING TIME BY KILLING PEOPLE!

WHAT?

HEY YOU SCUM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

BESIDES, THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE IN EDO, IT'S ACTUALLY FOR THE BETTER IF WE CUT DOWN THE POPULATION.

WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO PUT A LEASH ON THOSE IDIOTS.

IS UNRELATED TO THE FUND RAISING?

DO YOU THINK WHAT THEY ARE DOING,

GAHAHAHAHA!

DON'T YOU AGREE, ROKUROU?

I DIDN'T EXPECT THEM TO GO THIS FAR...

MOVE TO THE NEXT ONE! PUT FIRE OVER THERE, TOO!

HIEEEE!

THERE'S A FIRE!

TO BECOME A SAMURAI? IS THAT MY PATH?

DO I HAVE TO COMMIT THESE ATROCITIES...

IT'S A HEIST!

GIVE US YOUR SAVINGS! OR I'LL CUT YOU!

WHA-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

AH.

TO OUTLAWS LIKE YOU!

WE HAVE NO MONEY TO GIVE OUT...

FATHER...

P-PLEASE STOP!

.....

WHAT ABOUT NOW, GEEZER?!

IT'S THE MONEY TO BUILD A HOSPITAL!

THAT MONEY IS... FOR THE POOR...

YOU CAN'T GIVE IT TO THEM...

DON'T... KIMIE...

I'LL GIVE YOU ALL OUR MONEY!

I'M BEGGING YOU. PLEASE DON'T KILL MY FATHER!

HAHAHA! THIS IS A BIG CATCH!

IT'S HERE INDEED, BOSS.

TAKE A LOOK AT IT!

THE MONEY IS UNDER THE ALCOVE. PLEASE TAKE IT!

ALRIGHT, LET'S GO!

AYE.

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET GREEDY, FUCKING GEEZER!

STAY WITH ME! FATHER!

FATHER!

YOU ARE ANIMALS!

YOU AREN'T HUMAN!

YOU PEOPLE ARE HORRIBLE!

THEN AGAIN, IT'S HARD TO TRANSPORT THIS MUCH MONEY...

I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT GEEZER TO HAVE SO MUCH MONEY...

AND ROKUROU!

YOU TWO...

SHOULD WE DROP IT THERE?

AN ACQUAINTANCE'S PLACE IS AROUND THE CORNER.

ALRIGHT, I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.

CHANGE THE SIGN TO SURUGA STREET'S STORE! HURRY UP!

I'VE HEARD THE CITY GUARDS ARE RUSHING THIS WAY.

YES?

LET'S GO!

WE'LL REGROUP WITH THE REST AFTERWARDS.

YOU GUYS HELP ME CARRY THE MONEY TO THE HOUSE.

HELP US CARRYING THE BOXES!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ROKUROU?

!

THAT'S NOT IT.

NO, NO.

GIVE THAT MONEY BACK TO ITS OWNER.

WADA-SAN.

THIS MONEY IS FOR A MUCH MORE NOBLE CAUSE.

ARE YOU INSANE?!

ROKUROU...

ABOUT HOW TO USE MY SWORD, THAT IS.

I'VE FINALLY OPENED MY EYES, WADA-SAN...

HAH...

HAHAHAHA!

HA HAHAHA!

THIS CITY... THE PEOPLE ACROSS THIS COUNTRY ARE ALL MAD!

THIS IS A RELIEF! WE AREN'T THE ONLY ONES INSANE HERE!

YOU ARE INSANE!

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO GIVE UP YOUR CHANCE TO BECOME A SAMURAI!

ISN'T THIS HILARIOUS!? YOU LOT! LAUGH AS MUCH AS YOU WANT! HAHAHA-HAHA!

DO YOU KNOW WHY I CAN'T STOP LAUGHING? BECAUSE THERE ISN'T A SINGLE SOUL WHO HAS RETAINED THEIR SANITY!

HA HA HA

EHE...

HA HA

HI... HI.

HA HA HA HA

HEH.

HE HE.

HAHAHAHAHAHA!

HA!

パチ。。。

パチ

パチ

パチ

パチ



ヒュ～ン

ガル

"Swing"

BAM!

ちえりとお



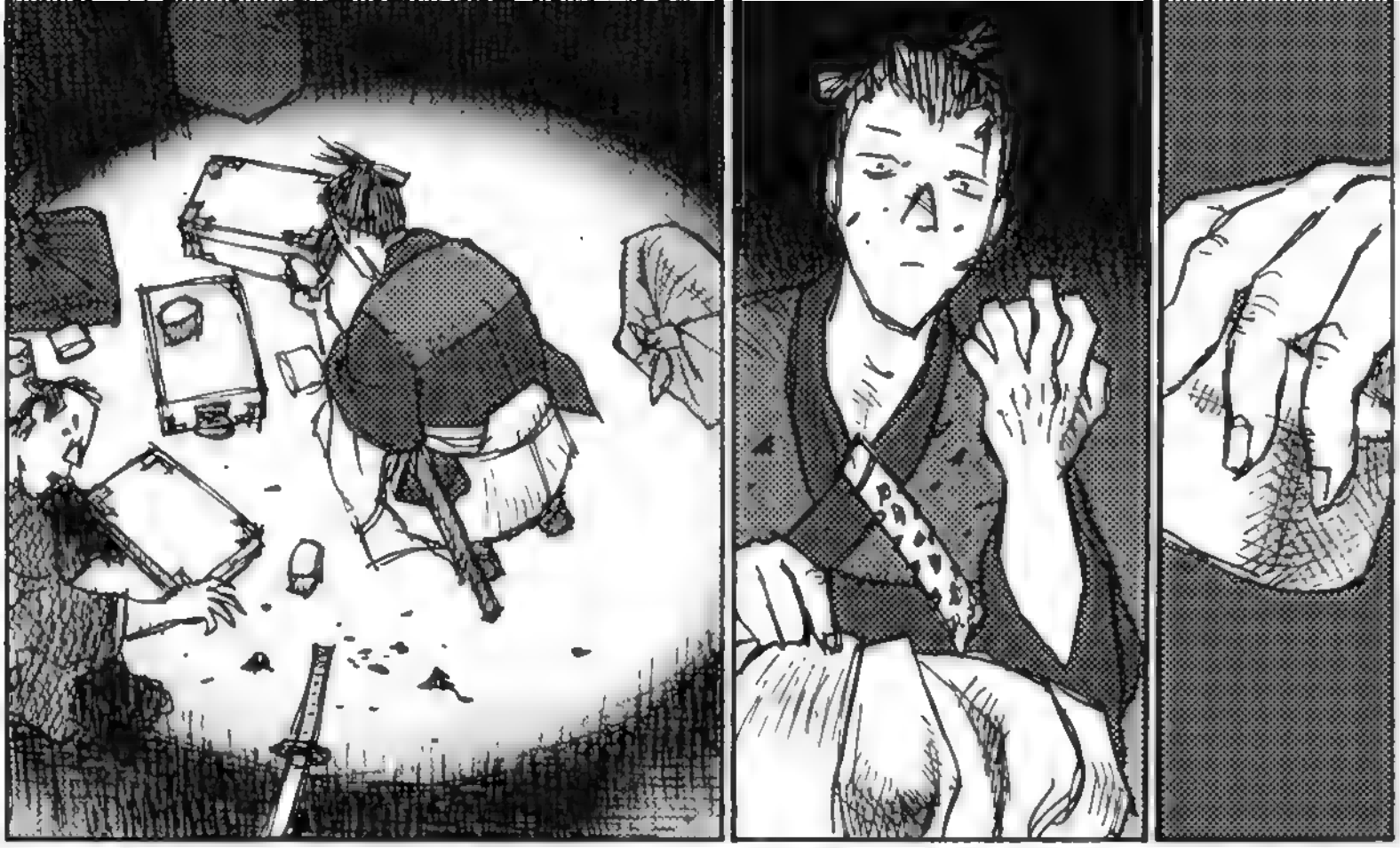
WAAH.

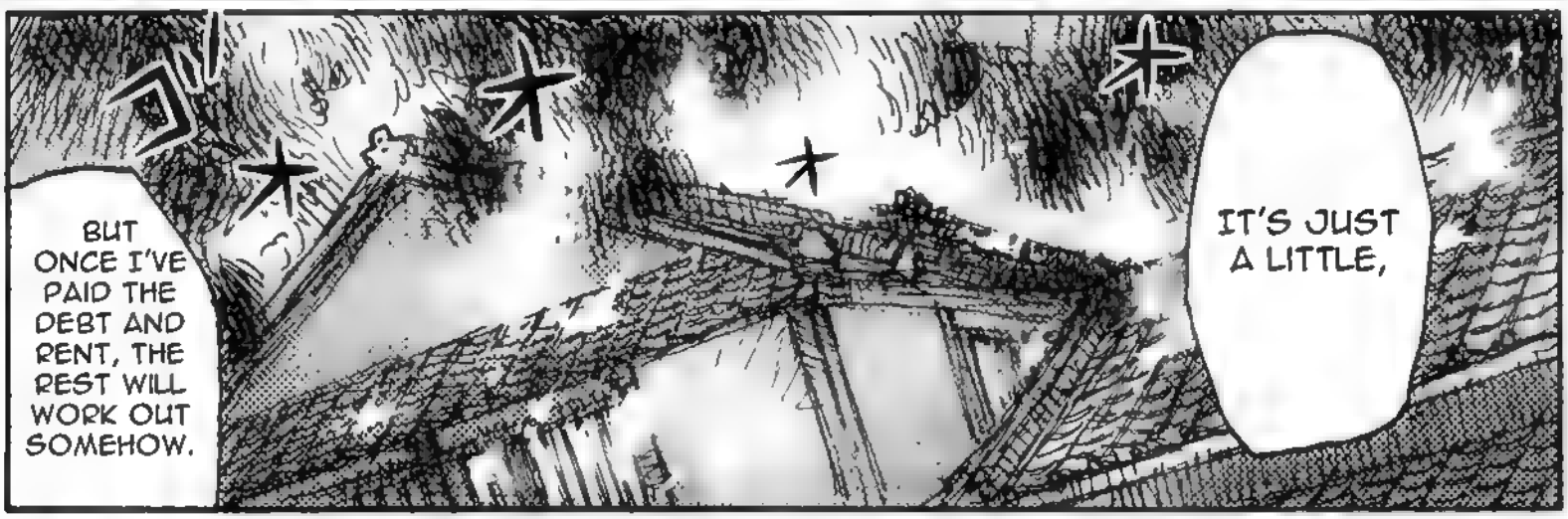
RAKU-
RAU!

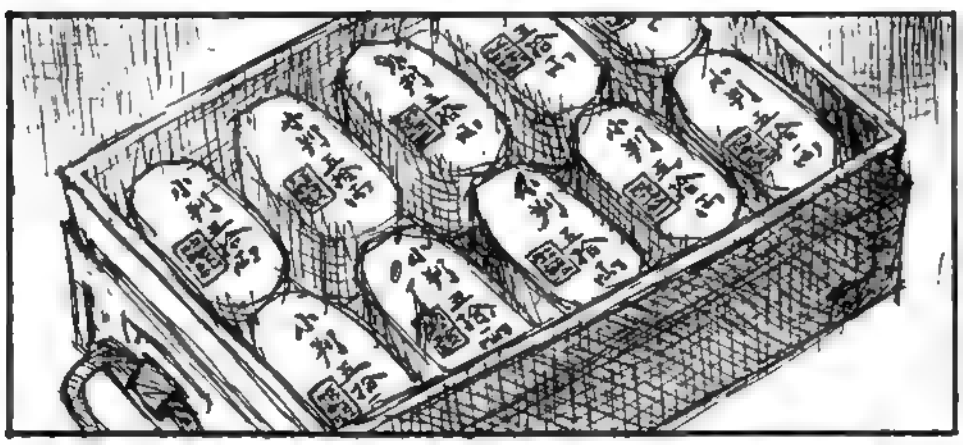
ガッ

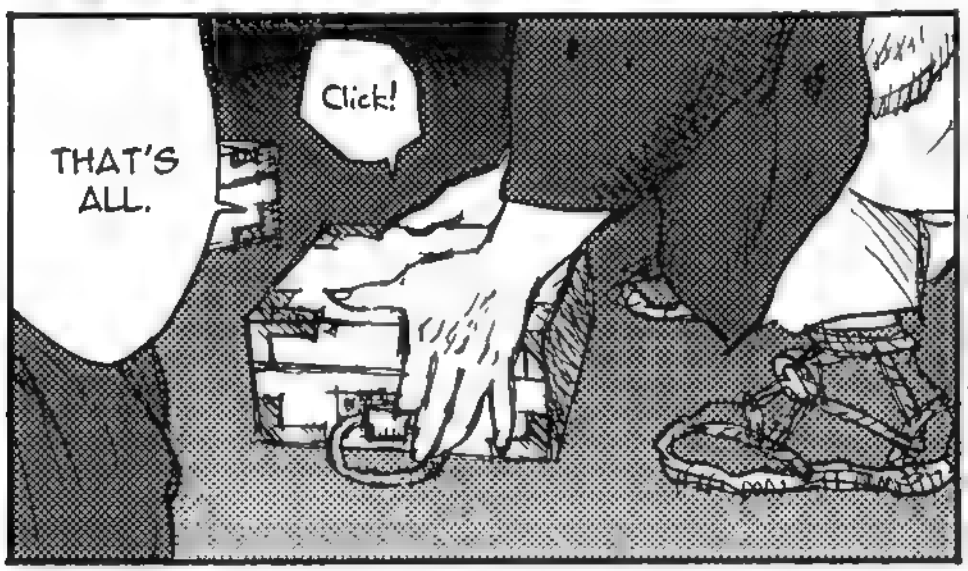
ガッ

ガラ…




BUT ONCE I'VE PAID THE DEBT AND RENT, THE REST WILL WORK OUT SOMEHOW.
IT'S JUST A LITTLE,




Click!
THAT'S ALL.

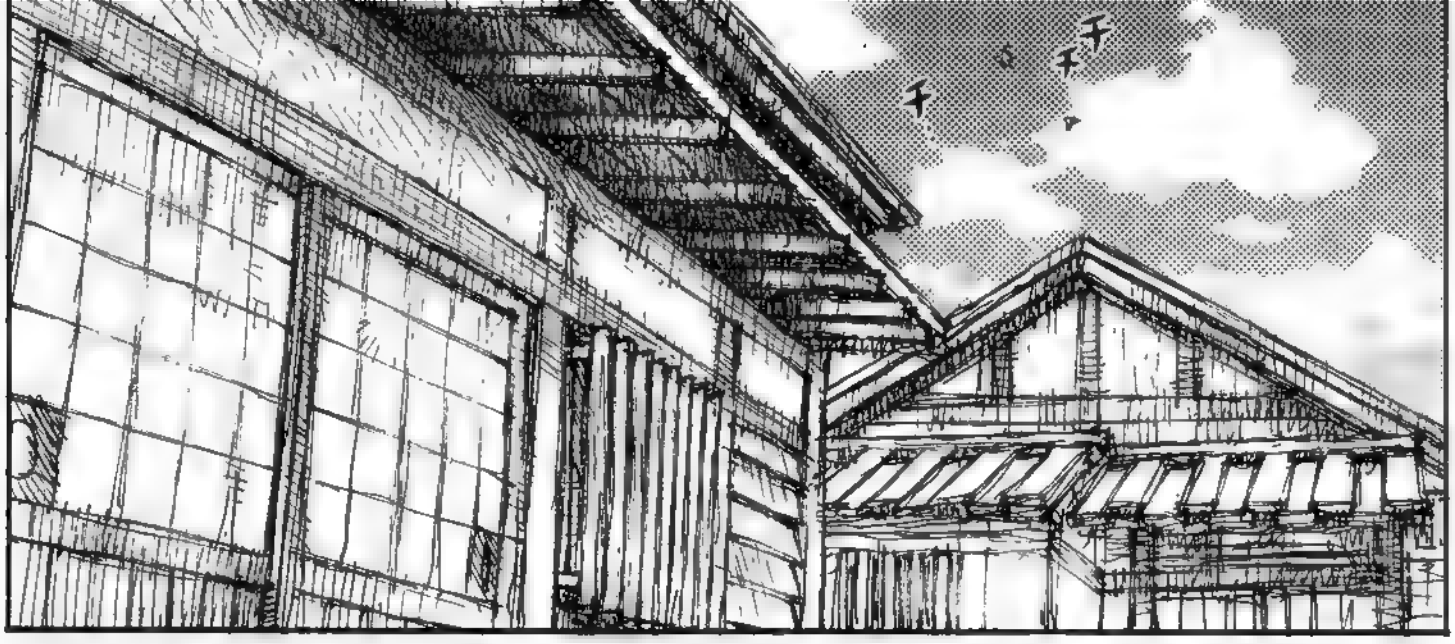


OH BOY.

LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE ELSE IS GOING TO TAKE MY JOB AGAIN.

IT'S SURE HARD TO HAVE...

A HIGH SELF-ESTEEM.




WHEN YOU SAID THAT YOU GOT A JOB, AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS WORKING FOR A BIG LAND-LORD.
I'M NOT REALLY SURPRISED, ROKUROU.


IF IT MEANS THROWING OUR PRIDE AS A SAMU-RAI FAMILY AWAY, I'D RATHER DIE!
HMPH!
ANYWAY, I'LL BE ON MY WAY THEN.


WE SOMEHOW AVOIDED GETTING KICKED OUT OF THIS PLACE.
WELL IT DOESN'T PAY MUCH, BUT IT SHOULD SUFFICE FOR BOILED BARLEY AND RICE.


I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE THE BODYGUARD OF THAT QUACK DOCTOR... I REALLY CAN'T DIE AT THIS RATE.

EVEN MORE THAN THE OTHERS.

I KNOW, MOTHER.

AS A WARRIOR, YOU SHOULD BE HOLDING YOUR HEAD UP.

ゴァ

IN ORDER TO SUPPRESS THE UPROAR AND HEISTS PERPETRATED BY THE SATSUMA DOMAIN, THE SHOGUNATE'S SECURITY FORCES HAVE LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON THE SHIBA RESIDENCE.

ガウ

ぃぁ

IN KEIOU 4*,
THE BOSHIN WAR
HAS STARTED.

THIS WAS MERELY
THE BEGINNING AS THE
CONFRONTATION BETWEEN
THE SHOGUNATE AND THE
SATSUMA DOMAIN GOT
EVEN MORE INTENSE.

*: 1868.

JAPAN WAS
MOVING INTO A
TERRIBLE ERA, WHERE
BLOOD IS WASHED
WITH BLOOD.

I'M FAM-
ISHED...

血煙舞う殺し合いの夜
一撃必殺隊は!?

問題なのは

その敵が
どこの誰だか
不明だという点だ

オレたちだけで
練習するんだよ

コミック乱
毎月27日発売!!
絶賛連載中!!

# いちげき 1

平成28年12月6日 初版第一刷発行
(定価はカバーに表示してあります)

著者
松本次郎 © Jiro Matsumoto
永井義男 © Yoshio Nagai

編集人
佐藤真吾

発行人
齊藤人志

発行所　株式会社 リイド社
〒166-8560 東京都杉並区高円寺北2-3-2
TEL 03-5373-7001(代)

印刷所
凸版印刷株式会社

製本所
安藤製本株式会社

●製本には十分注意しておりますが、乱丁・落丁（本のページ順序の間違いや抜け落ち）の場合は、購入された書店名を明記して、リイド社営業部宛にお送りください。送料小社負担にてお取り替え致します。但し、古書店で購入したものについてはお取り替えできません。
●本書の一部または全部を無断で複製、転載、上映、放送等をすることは、法律で認められた場合を除き、著作者及び出版者の権利侵害となります。あらかじめ小社まで許諾をお求めください。
●業者など、読者本人以外による本書のデジタル化は、いかなる場合でも一切認められませんのでご注意ください。
●この作品はコミック乱2016年二月号、2016年六月号～2016年十月号に掲載されたものを単行本用に再編集したものです。
●この物語はフィクションであり、実在の人物、団体名とは関係がございません。また時代劇という作品の性格上、当時の表現を使用しましたことを、おことわりいたします。

[リイド社のホームページ] http://www.leed.co.jp
Printed in Japan　ISBN978-4-8458-5002-0

# ICHIGEKI

Presented by: Death Toll Scans



## Credits

| | |
|---|---|
| Translator | iddqd |
| Proofreader | PervySageChuck |
| Cleaner | Zeroaintdead |
| Redrawer | Yothen |
| Typesetter | Yothen |